The Middlebury Campus

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BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Ryszard Legutko stands outside the Robert A. Jones '59 House following his impromptu appearance at Professor Matt Dickinson's American Presidency seminar last Wednesday, April 17.

Legutko: What Happened

This article is by Riley Board, James Finn, Caroline Kapp and Sabine Poux.

Despite the cancellation of his public lecture earlier last Wednesday, April 17 amid what college administrators described as "safety concerns," the right-wing Polish politician Ryszard Legutko still spoke on campus that afternoon to a private classroom audience. A peaceful protest originally scheduled to take place outside of the lecture did not occur.

His visit has since ignited a controversy on campus. The administration waited two days to formally clarify that student protesters did not constitute the safety concern that led to the talk's cancellation, frustrating the protest's organizers and prompting a backlash against the administration's handling of the event. National news outlets picked up the story, weaving last Wednesday's events into discussions of free speech on college campuses evocative of those that surfaced after Charles Murray's visit two years ago.

In an email to The Campus on April 18, Head of Media Relations Sarah Ray clarified the "safety risk" that prompted the cancellation was an inability to crowd-manage the escalating number of people planning to attend the event.

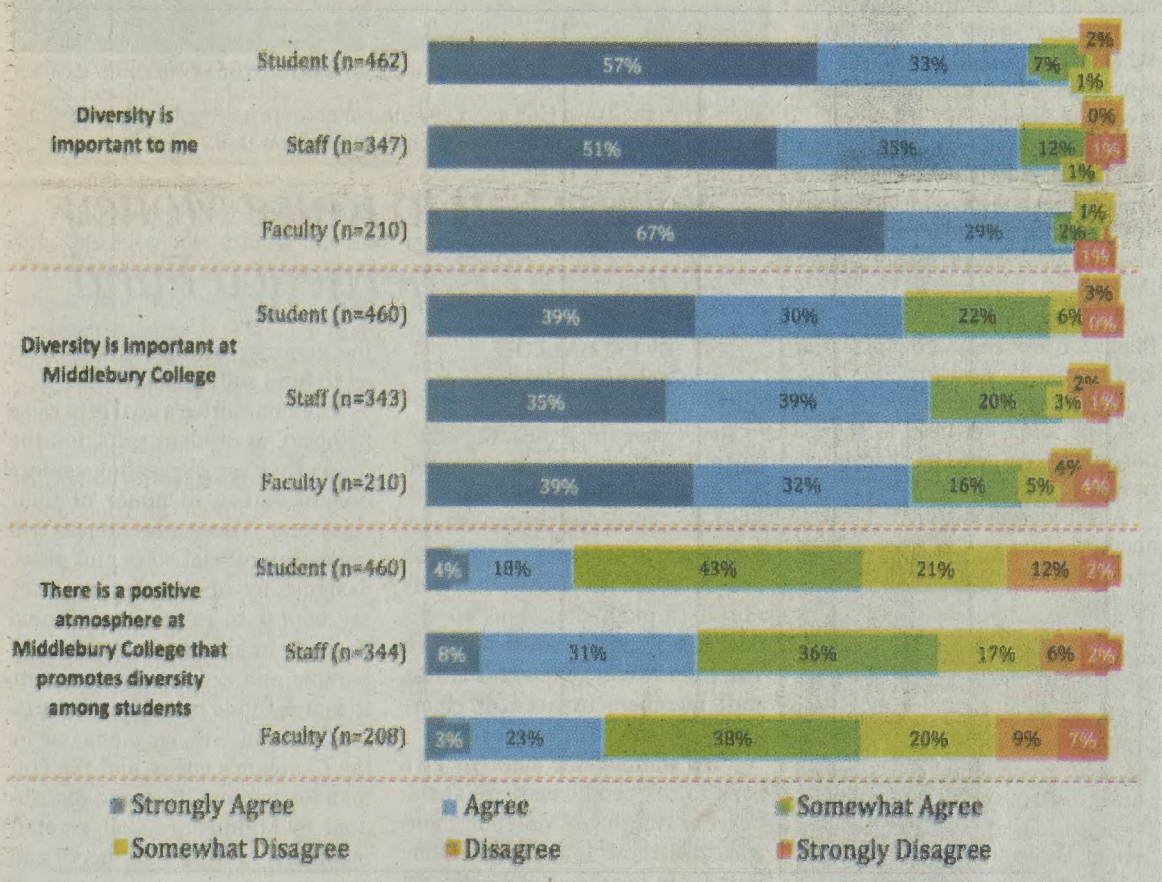
"The fact that there were students who were planning to hold an event near the lecture was not an issue," she said in a subsequent email. "The safety concerns stemmed from the rapidly growing number of people who had expressed an interest in attending the two events. We simply did not have adequate staffing to ensure the safety of all the attendees."

But in the immediate aftermath of the cancelation, student activists reported feeling confused and afraid for their safety after learning of the unspecified safety risk from the administration.

"As we were collectively committed to non-disruptive, nonviolent action, the undefined security threat could only have been a threat against us, against our bodies," the organizers wrote in a collective statement published in The Campus last Thursday, April 18.

Rather than speak before an audience at the Kirk Alumni Center as planned, Legutko delivered his lecture to Political Science Professor Matthew Dickinson's "American Presidency"

Continued on Page 4



COURTESY GRAPH

A selection of the data gathered in a campus-wide survey conducted by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

SGA Senators Threaten Mass Resignation If Administration Doesn't Meet Demands

By WILL DIGRAVIO
Editor-in-Chief
SABINE POUX
Senior News Editor

At least nine Student Government Association senators have threatened to resign en masse if college officials do not meet a list of 13 demands, a decision that would effectively dissolve the elected body for the remainder of the academic year.

The demands were outlined in a letter emailed Tuesday morning to senior college administrators, including President Laurie L. Patton, with all students copied. Demands in the letter are wide-ranging, and include: "structural changes" to college policy aimed at increasing administrative transparency; "improvements to existing programs" like Green Dot and bringing all buildings into Americans with Disabilities Act compliance; and "new initiatives," including the creation of an LGBTQ+ Center and a Black Studies department.

In the letter, senators also asked Patton to appear before students at a town hall on Tuesday, April 30 in Mead Chapel. Senior Senator Travis Sanderson '19 told The Campus that the resignations would occur sometime after then, depending on how and if administrators respond to their demands.

"We just received the SGA communication and are reviewing it. Many of the concerns are already being addressed," Patton told The Campus Tuesday afternoon. "For others, we believe we can find a way forward to work together. We welcome an opportunity for engagement with SGA and have already reached out to its leaders. We will be providing a response, which we hope we can work on collaboratively, next week."

While not every member of the SGA Senate has promised to resign, all members approved sending the letter to administration, Sanderson said. The resignation of at least nine of the 18 senators would mean the absence of a quorum at all future meetings, and thus the effective dissolution of the elected body for the remainder of the academic year. With the threat of resignation, senators hope to send a message about inadequate student representation in administrative decision-making.

"It has become evident that the connection between the administration and students has been reduced to a one-way street," they wrote. "The administration has failed time and again to listen to the desires of its students."

Their demands, titled "Thirteen Proposals for Community Healing," are aimed to improve student representation and promote community healing on campus, including several proposals that had previously been

Continued on Page 4

Vijayakumar Elected SGA President; Lezama Co-Chair

By PORTER BOWMAN
SGA Correspondemt

Varsha Vijayakumar '20 was elected Student Government Association (SGA) president for the 2019–2020 academic year last Friday, April 19th. She won the seat after receiving 611 of the 1,026 student votes cast this spring (roughly 60% of the vote).

"I'm beyond humbled that my peers have chosen me to represent them next year," Vijayakumar said. "I'm even more in awe because this means that my entire Middlebury career will be marked by women of color as SGA Presidents."

Vijayakumar ran on a five pillar platform centered around her dedication to the student body,- focusing on health and wellness, social spaces and social life, inclusivity, access to resources, and financial aid and employment.

"I'm excited to dedicate myself fully to students, both current and future, by working to make Middlebury more of a place we all want to call home," Vijayakumar said.

Student turnout to SGA elec-

Continued on Page 3

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/ THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Varsha Vijayakumar '20 (top) was elected SGA President. Roni Lezama '22 (bottom) was elected Community Council Co-Chair.

Major Study of Inclusion on Campus Drops Tomorrow

By JAMES FINN
News Editor

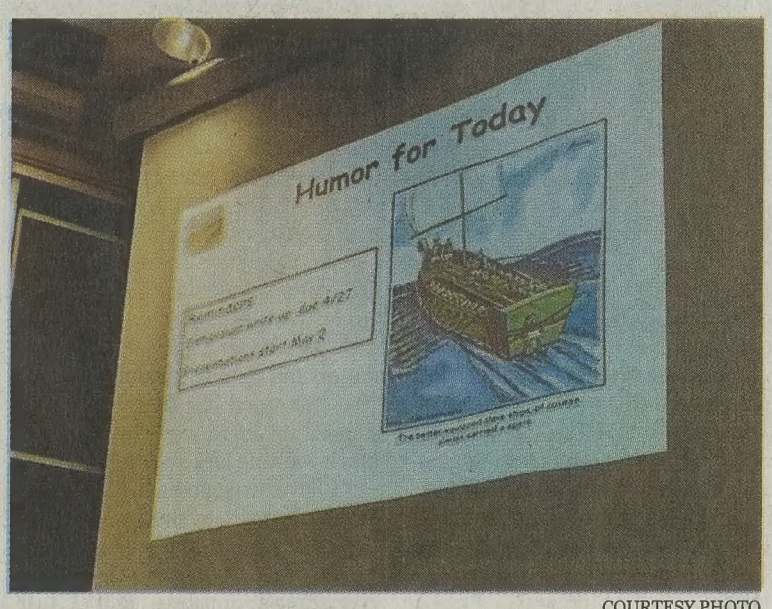
The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will release the findings of a yearlong "campus climate assessment" tomorrow. The assessment reviews student, faculty and staff perceptions of diversity, inclusion and other facets of life at Middlebury. In addition to painting an image of dissatisfaction with realities of diversity and inclusion on campus, the 89-page report contains a set of "actionable recommendations" that will serve as cornerstones of a strategic three-to-five year plan to improve campus equity.

The report is the product of interviews with small focus groups and two campus-wide surveys. The study was conducted over the past year by the Washington Consulting Group (WCG), a firm based in Bethesda, MD the college has previously used to conduct campus assessments. WCG remained in contact with the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion along the way.

This report is part of a fairly regular cycle at Middlebury. Campus climate surveys have surfaced roughly every six years over the past two decades, according to Chief Diversity Officer Miguel Fernandez, and they're usually triggered by a major event like Charles Murray's visit two years ago.

Continued on Page 3

Prof. Shows Cartoon Joking About Slavery



COURTESY PHOTO

"The better-equipped slave ships, of course, always carried a spare," read the cartoon's caption.

By SARAH ASCH
Editor at Large

Professor of Geology Pat Manley included a cartoon on the introductory slide of a slideshow in her Ocean Floor class on Tuesday, April 16 that joked about the slave trade. The cartoon, which appeared on a slide titled "Humor for Today," depicted a slave ship crossing the ocean with a person strapped to the back, with text reading, "the better-equipped slave ships, of course, always carried a spare."

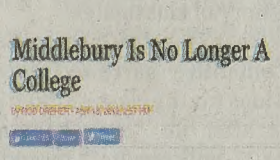
This incident occurred less than two weeks after a Holocaust-related chemistry midterm exam question caused widespread controversy on campus.

Charlie Caldwell '22, a student in the class, said that people immediately noticed that the comic was in

Continued on Page 4

NEWS

Midd celebrates Earth Day with Eco Fair and Town Hall
Page 2



Right-wing media jumps on speech controversy. Again.
Page 3

LOCAL

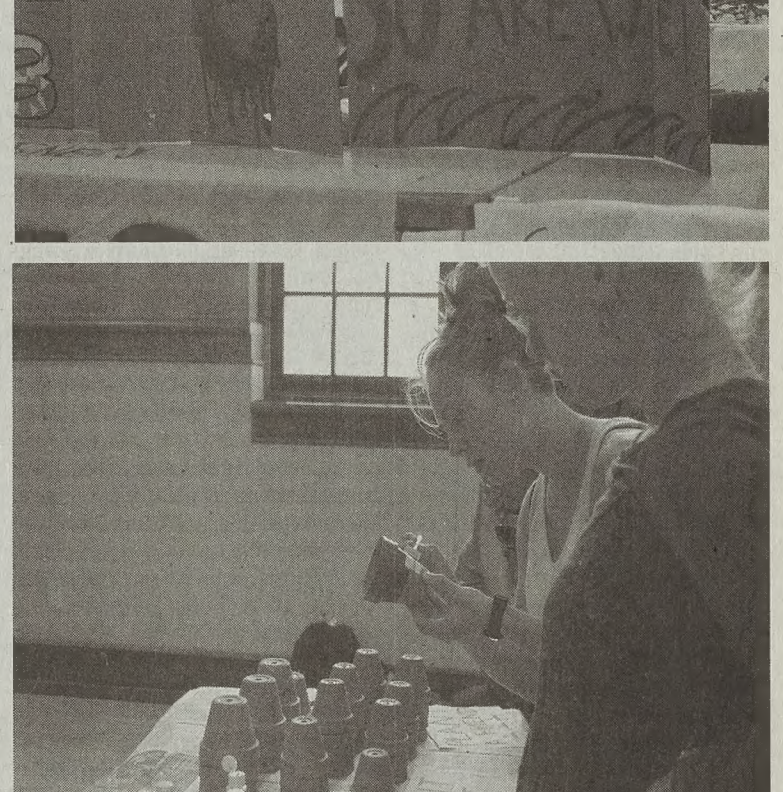
Old Stone Mill revamp unveiled
Page 6

ARTS & ACADEMICS

The joys and challenges of laser cooling research
Page 13

SPORTS

Women's lacrosse captures tight win
Page 16



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Shots from the Town Hall and Eco Fair, which were held last Friday, April 19 to celebrate Earth Day in Mead Chapel and Wilson Hall.

Promoting Green New Deal, Environmental Groups Host Eco Fair & Town Hall

By NICOLE POLLACK
Staff Writer

In celebration of Earth Day, The Sunday Night Environmental Group (SNEG) and Sunrise Middlebury hosted an Eco Fair last Friday in Wilson Hall, followed by a Town Hall Meeting on the Green New Deal in Mead Chapel.

ECO FAIR

Representatives from an array of environmentally conscious on-campus and local organizations sat at rows of tables at the Eco Fair, describing their forms of activism to interested students and community members.

Several of the groups that attended specialize in encouraging more sustainable dietary practices. MiddVegan, a club that started in the fall, promoted their monthly vegan dinners at their table. Weybridge House, the local foods interest house, explained their emphasis on sustainable eating; they purchase all of their food, except oil and spices, from within 70 miles of the college. The Environmental Affairs Committee (EAC) displayed a possible version of the reusable, fully recyclable and compostable to-go cups they plan to introduce in the near future.

Other organizations highlighted the less-obvious connections between their work and environmental issues. Members of Feminist Action at Middlebury, representing Planned Parenthood, emphasized the disproportionate effect climate change has on female and minority communities. Juntos talked about the impacts of of environmental threats on migrant farmworkers.

Some displays were more interactive. Students painted flower pots at a table labeled, "Plant a friend." Luke Bazemore '21 piled the Mountain Club table with sticks and challenged passerby to try starting a fire by rubbing the sticks together. Fortunately, nobody succeeded.

Haley Goodman '21 ran a waste-sorting game at the Sustainability Solutions Lab table, asking students to determine which bins frequently-misplaced waste products really belonged in. "All of the disposable containers that you get from the Grille and Wilson Cafe, and our to-go cups, are all compostable, so that includes even things that look like plastic," Goodman said. She said that plastic Amazon packages and bags are newly recyclable.

SNEG, Divest and Sunrise Middlebury, the college's chapter of a national youth coalition combating climate change, shared a table with 350.org, the international climate organization founded at Middlebury in 2007. Across the aisle, the Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG) discussed their effort to ban single-use plastic bags in Vermont.

Margie Bickoff from Huddlebury, a new Addison County group that also advocates for a ban on single-use plastic bags and sews reusable cloth bags from repurposed fabrics to donate to food shelves and businesses, said the project grew from its founders' shared desire to make change after the Women's March.

"We call them re-bags for 'reduce waste, reuse and recycle,' and the fabric that's being used is recycled," she said. "In fact, some people have brought in their old curtains."

TOWN HALL

Sunrise Middlebury organized the Town Hall as part of a series of similar events hosted by affiliated groups nationwide to resolve misrepresentations and spark community conversations about the proposed Green New Deal.

Each of the six student presenters — Molly Babbin '22, Phoebe Brown '22.5, Katie Concannon '21, Leif Taranta '20.5, Emily Thompson '22 and Olivia Sommers '21 — began with their own reasons for joining the Sunrise Movement and organizing the Town Hall.

For Taranta, it was the devastating impact of fossil fuels on the air, water and people in their hometown of Philadelphia. For Babbin, it was witnessing the effects of rising sea levels at home in Connecticut. For Concannon, it was overwhelming climate grief following the 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report. For Brown, it was the impending loss of winter as it exists now.

They started the presentation with a brief history of the climate crisis and the influence of the wealthy on climate denial. A slide on ExxonMobil read, "They knew. They denied. They deflected responsibility."

"I personally think money speaks louder than words," Concannon said.

But unlike fossil fuel companies, young people have numbers, and "this system can't stay up if we don't let it," Taranta said.

Over the next decade, the presenters said, the Green New Deal, aimed at combating climate change and economic inequality, will facilitate a just transition to a livable future through a national mobilization for all.

Using an interactive format that asked audience members to reflect on their own communities' needs and to share those ideas with the people around them, the presenters introduced the three pillars of the Green New Deal — good jobs for all, a democratic economy and a good life for all — and described its plan to expand the lowest-carbon parts of the US economy to form an energy democracy and put wind and solar in the hands of the people.

"Green jobs," they said, "have to be good jobs."

They ran through a few frequently asked questions: "How will it become concrete?" Through future legislation. "Is it technologically feasible?" Yes. "How will we pay for it?" In response, Babbin read a quote from Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, to resounding applause "Why is it that these questions arise only in connection with useful ideas, not wasteful ideas? Where were the 'pay-fors' for Bush's $5 trillion wars and tax cuts, or for last year's $2 trillion tax giveaway to billionaires? Why wasn't financing those massive throwaways as scary as financing the rescue of our planet and middle class now seems to be to these naysayers?"

"In some places, I wouldn't just get cheered when I read the quote," Babbin later told The Campus, referencing the cynicism many outspoken opponents of the Green New Deal have already expressed. "In other states, maybe they're skeptical, but here people were so on board."

During the Town Hall, Taranta emphasized the importance of talking about the Green New Deal and combating the widespread misinformation that it is not economically, technologically socially or politically possible. "The idea that this will never happen is a propaganda campaign used against us to discourage us," they said. It can happen — it has to.

Members of Sunrise Middlebury and SNEG are also drafting a Vermont Green New Deal, which they plan to present to the state legislature in January, nearly a year before the national proposal makes its way through Congress.

The six students concluded the presentation portion of the Town Hall by inviting local organizers, many of whom presented at the Eco Fair, to join them at the front and sing, "Social Justice Song 2019," composed by Bickoff, the Huddlebury representative from the Eco Fair.

Gabe Desmond '20.5 was the first audience member to speak. "Raise your hand if you've ever been affected by climate change," he said. Every hand in the room went up. Desmond talked about a time last summer when he was unable to finish a hike in Seattle, Washington, because smoke from wildfires to the north, east and south had caused Seattle's air quality to be the worst in the world.

"I think the really scary thing about climate change, to me, is that it's hidden," Desmond said. "When something like Irene happens, you don't always think about climate change as being the thing that floods your home, right? It's the water. When I can't breathe, 'Oh, it's the fires. It's not climate change.' But it is climate change."

One community member, who said he graduated from college more than 50 years ago, said politicians are cowardly, and their constituents need to push them to do greater things.

Another said that people do things for two reasons: out of fear of loss and out of desire for gain.

"We keep living in the fear of loss," he said. "We need to change our minds. We need to change our hearts."

A self-identified baby Feb asked about the best way to reach a Representative. An email? A phone call? A letter?

Fran Putnam, a local resident closely involved with SNEG, answered, "All of the above."

"In 11 years," said a girl at the front of the room, "I will be 24 years old. And I am completely terrified and overwhelmed by that, because I will only have lived a quarter of my life, hopefully, at that time. And if this doesn't work out—though I'm hoping that it will—that's it for me." Describing the renewed hope she gained while participating in the Next Steps Climate Walk earlier this month, she started to cry. Her comment received one of the longest rounds of applause of the evening.

"I was anticipating more questions," Concannon told The Campus. "I was ready to answer questions about how to pay for it. I was ready to answer questions about, 'Why do you need to include the social aspect with the environmental aspect?'"

"We thought we were gonna get drilled on the details, because generally when I have a conversation with a friend or a parent, they drill me on the details," Babbin added. "But it seemed like the people who showed up there were already very much wanting large change."

"I have struggled a lot with ecological despair, to the point where sometimes it just feels like there's nothing to do about anything, and everything's hopeless, and I just get in my head, like, why even try," Sommers told The Campus. "Which I think is a more common thought pattern than we let people know. And I found that channeling that into activism and planning and this town hall, where I'm bringing awareness about the Green New Deal, and bringing people into that, is a way to deal with my climate anxiety, and hopefully make it productive."

"Climate change isn't always associated with strong emotions and grief," Babbin said.

"But it is," Concannon said. "It's loss of life. It's loss of place. It's loss of home."

Senior Gift to Raise Money for Staff Emergency Fund

By EM BALLOU
Contributing Writer

Every year since 1981, the graduating senior class has honored its time at Middlebury by presenting a class gift to the college. This year, the Classes of 2019 and 2019.5 voted to use their funds raised through donations to endow the Fund for Staff Support. The reserve will go towards aiding staff members in need of emergency assistance or support.

"We wanted our fund to give back to the people who are at the heart of running Middlebury, and who have done so throughout our four years here, but will also still be here when we leave," said Senior Committee Treasurer Tricia Nelsen '19. "We wanted our legacy to have an impact on the staff who aren't here temporarily, but continuously make this place function."

The tradition of giving a senior gift began in an effort by the college for students to learn the importance of philanthropy and leaving a legacy behind when they graduate. As the tradition has developed over time, the college has begun soliciting donations to match the senior gift. This has enabled students to raise even more for their class gift, allowing them to choose more meaningful projects such as scholarships and environmental support.

Past gifts have included funding for nature trail maintenance and landscaping, benches and the clock outside of the McCullough Student Center, building the Solar Decathlon House, renovating the lounge in Proctor, buying an additional MiddRides van, purchasing new campus printers, and memorial scholarships honoring the memory of classmates.

This year, the five-person Senior Committee narrowed down the options for the class gift to five choices after an "overwhelming number of poll results." In addition to funding for staff supports, other possible options included allocating the funding towards financial aid, the arts, sustainable energy, and internships and off-campus experiences. According to Nelsen, after a final vote, the majority voting seniors elected to fund staff support.

The Committee's goal is to raise $10,000 in student gifts for the fund. They are suggesting seniors donate $20.19 in honor of their class year. Those who donate will receive an official class pint glass, designed by Jill Stauffer '19. They are hoping to raise an additional $15,000 in gifts from alumni and parents and are soliciting donors to match funds raised by students.

The fund will be managed by the Chaplain's Office and the Human Resources Office and distributed to Middlebury College staff members in times of need and emergency via an application. It will subsidize financial burdens such as emergency medical expenses, funerals, heating and other unexpected crises.

Beyond the monetary contribution to the project, the senior class gift is also a symbol of student support. It is the last opportunity as a student — and the first opportunity for a soon-to-be alumnus — to give back to the college and to be part of the greater Middlebury community.

"The staff should feel supported and appreciated by the student body," said fellow Committee leader Angie McCarthy '19. "The senior class gift is a way for seniors to show their appreciation for their time at Middlebury and those who made it happen."

McCarthy suggested the gift will "hopefully strike a note with members of the entire community," since everyone benefits from the services the college staff provides. McCarthy also noted that while the seniors are pleased the class gift will go towards staff aid, "students shouldn't always have to be the last line of support."

"I think this decision has a ton of benefits, primarily the ability to help staff when they need it, but I also think it helps show them how much we appreciate their hard work even though students can sometimes come off as unappreciative," Nelsen noted. "It's the least we can do."

More information on the fund can be found at go.middlebury.edu/seniorfund.

Middlebury Is No Longer A College

By ROD DREHER • April 18, 2019, 2:57 PM

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AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE

Middlebury College Disinvites Polish Politician Ryszard Legutko, Fails Free Speech Test Yet Again

Protesters said it was "absolutely, unequivocally" not their intention to shut down Legutko. The administration panicked anyway.

ROBBY SOAVE | 4.18.2019 5:20 PM

REASON

Right-Wing Media Jumps on Free Speech Controversy. Again.

By SARAH ASCH
Editor at Large

In the wake of the canceled lecture by — and protest of — Ryszard Legutko last week, conservative and mainstream media outlets alike took a renewed interest in free speech at Middlebury. While some journalists wrote articles that explored nuanced perspectives about what happened, many right-wing outlets spun the issue into another on-campus meltdown over a controversial speaker.

Right-leaning website The College Fix, for example, insinuated that the protesters may have been responsible for the safety risk — administrators have since clarified that protesters did not cause the unspecified "safety concern" that caused the cancelation. The writer also drew a direct connection between this protest and the Charles Murray protest two years ago, characterizing both as violent and mob-like.

The College Fix article described the student protesters as being in "a fevered pitch of outrage" and suggested that the protest would include a "shuttling-in of protest participants."

An article in The American Conservative went as far as to declare in its headline "Middlebury is No Longer a College," and went on to criticize the "left-wing mobs" that the writer claims rule campus.

While many right-leaning outlets were openly critical of the planned protest and its organizers, others, such as Reason, a libertarian magazine, focused their criticism on the administration for canceling the talk, rather than on the protesters.

"Preemptively shutting down difficult conversations out of an abundance of caution is really no different from shutting them down due to mob pressure," the article read, arguing that both the talk and the protest should have occurred as scheduled.

Taite Shomo '20.5, one of the protest organizers, said that reading through press coverage of the event has been a disheartening experience.

"There are a few articles that are more generous to student organizers, and those are diamonds in the rough, but the seemingly enormous amount of negative coverage is disheartening and overwhelming to me," she said. "This warped story has been very frustrating and difficult to deal with, especially considering how much time and effort and energy I personally put into the planning process and the effort to make the protest something that Middlebury students and faculty could be proud of."

Shomo reiterated that, despite the negative coverage suggesting otherwise, the protest was going to be peaceful and non-disruptive.

"We were never violent, we never planned to be violent and we never planned to prevent Legutko from speaking," she said. "Our goal was to educate the community about Legutko's views, and then to celebrate our marginalized identities together as a community."

Conservative media outlets often pay special attention to free speech issues on college campuses. Paul Johnson, an assistant Professor of Communication at the University of Pittsburgh who studies rhetoric and American politics, said that conservative media outlets have both an ideological and economic incentive to cover free speech issues the way that they do.

"The idea that elite, liberal institutions — and in these stories, there's a disproportionate focus on elite institutions like Yale, Harvard, Middlebury, Oberlin — are generally intolerant of conservatism offers one pathway for conservatives and right-wingers to burnish their populist credibility," he said.

Johnson explained that this positioning helps provide the conservative movement with a certain kind of ideological unity.

"Patting yourself on the back for being more tolerant than a bunch of campus leftists — or, to go further, imagining that you're quite tolerant and they are the hypocrites — does a lot of important cognitive work for the movement," he said. "Information consumers can go from campus outrage to campus outrage without stopping to think about what one's own investments are."

Financially, he said that right-wing news organizations like Breitbart and Campus Reform want to write articles about free speech issues because they generate clicks.

"They have an audience hovering their mouse arrow over various social media feeds waiting to hear about the most recent campus excesses," he said.

For readers that want to engage such coverage critically, Johnson said that one red flag to look out for is when a reporter uses the phrase "free speech" frequently in an article without providing a clear definition of the term.

"When pundits or outlets talk about 'free speech' as an absolute social value, it really stands in for a demand that they think people should be able to say anything they want. That, of course, could be the basis for its own kind of anarchistic, violent society, but it is in no way the basis for anything resembling a shared, democratic life," he said. "Our social structure is not built on the idea that all ideas have an equal right to be expressed."

Johnson added that another bad sign is when an article is short, which probably indicates that it is not delving into the full nuance of the issue.

"Deliberations over bringing speakers to campus are complicated, different campuses have different rules and regulations, and so it's almost never cut and dry," he said.

The impact of these news stories is often felt by student protesters and vulnerable student groups. Shomo, who has received a lot of online exposure in the coverage of the event, said that she did not expect this event to receive such widespread media attention. Many of the articles quote Shomo's posts in the Facebook event for the protest, which were taken without her knowledge.

"I take ownership of the fact that I made the Facebook event and posted on it, thus putting my name out into the world, but I also really never thought it would blow up as much as it did," she said.

Shomo said that, although she feels her quotes have been used accurately for the most part, she is uncomfortable with the level of online exposure she has received. She recently decided to change her name on Facebook after a stranger tagged her in a post about the incident and an account that appeared to belong to a Polish scientist tried to add her as a friend.

Shomo believes, especially with an issue as divisive as this one, that right-wing press coverage that demonizes protest only contributes to the frustration and the divide.

"I think that no matter what I or the other organizers or our supporters say, people will see what they want to see in this situation," she said. "At the end of the day, I don't think they're interested in my side of the story."

College to Publicize Findings of Yearlong Report on Diversity, Inclusion Tomorrow

Continued from Page 1

The 2019 Campus Climate Assessment reflects tensions that have arisen in conversations at Middlebury since Murray visited campus: it paints a picture of a campus that has a long way to go before becoming an equitable space for students, faculty and staff.

In writing the report, WCG sought reactions from those three groups about the state of campus life across six categories: diversity, inclusion, campus accessibility, harassment and bullying, employment practices and meaningful interactions.

The climate assessment was conducted in three phases. First, WCG collected qualitative data last spring from faculty and staff "focus groups" – small groups organized by "social identity" like ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation. Second, students were brought into focus groups that fall. Focus groups were small, ranging in size from two (the female students focus group) to 12 (female staff). While the focus groups' small size limited their effectiveness as indicators of campus-wide sentiment, there were also benefits to kicking off the assessment by speaking with smaller groups.

"Sometimes that small size was very effective, because the folks running those groups were able to dig deep," Fernandez said.

Third, campus-wide surveys were sent out last fall that asked students, faculty and staff questions similar to those posed to focus groups. Fernandez said that since the focus groups were small, more data was needed, and the campus-wide surveys gave all members of the community the opportunity to contribute to the climate assessment.

"Regarding completion rate, 617 students viewed the survey, 398 completed all of the questions and 111 started but did not answer all of the questions," the report reads. "For the faculty and staff survey, 1010 respondents viewed the survey, 531 completed all of the questions, 145 started but did not answer all of the questions."

Both surveys asked questions pertaining to "perceptions and experiences of diversity and inclusion, meaningful interactions with individuals of varying socioeconomic status; harassment; bullying and intimidation; physical accessibility; and disability," according to the report. The staff and faculty survey asked questions about tenure, promotion and annual review process in addition to diversity and inclusion-oriented questions posed in the student survey.

Survey respondents and focus group participants were asked to agree or disagree with statements like "diversity is important to me" and "diversity is important to Middlebury College" on a scale from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree." In the first section of the report, which showcases responses to questions pertaining to diversity, participants largely agreed with the statement "diversity is important to me."

While survey participants generally agreed with the statement "diversity is important to Middlebury College," with 39% of respondents strongly agreeing with that statement, few participants agreed with the statement "there is a positive atmosphere at Middlebury College that promotes diversity among students" – just 4% of students, 8% of staff and 3% of faculty agreed strongly with that statement.

Survey and focus group results also convey dissatisfaction with Middlebury's inclusiveness. 48% of students responded "slightly dissatisfied" to the statement "Middlebury College is inclusive for students." White students and students of color responded with striking difference to the statement "Middlebury College is inclusive for students who share my race/ethnicity": 79% of white students strongly agreed with that statement, compared to just 9% of students of color.

One of the most notable points in the report came in the harassment, bullying and intimidation category, where Fernandez was surprised by how far-reaching the effects of harassment are on campus.

"The statement 'Middlebury is free of harassment,' a huge amount of faculty, staff and students disagree with that," Fernandez said. "Same with bullying and same with intimidation. That was an eye-opener for us, seeing how many people felt that across all groupings. It wasn't just people from minority groups."

Data surrounding perceptions of campus accessibility, too, illustrate frustration with accomodations in dining halls, campus housing, computer labs, athletic facilities and classroom buildings.

According to Fernandez, who heads the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, the report will serve as much more than a helpful indicator of how community members feel about some of the divisive issues raised in the wake of Murray's visit in the spring of 2017. It will be used as a cornerstone of a new strategic plan that Fernandez's office is working on as a way to affect tangible change in the areas that the 2019 report identifies as frustrations for many members of the Middlebury community.

The strategic plan, which Fernandez said will take three-to-five years to implement in full, will draw upon "actionable recommendations" included at the end of the 2019 report. The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will begin work on the strategic plan this summer, and will work with community stakeholders into the fall before presenting the plan by the end of 2019. One of the ways the report recommends changing campus culture is continued education for students around diversity, equity and inclusion, which Fernandez's office has worked to promote with Director of Education for Equity and Inclusion, Renee Wells.

"Building on education around diversity, equity and inclusion is an actionable step that we believe will have a real effect on campus culture," Fernandez said.

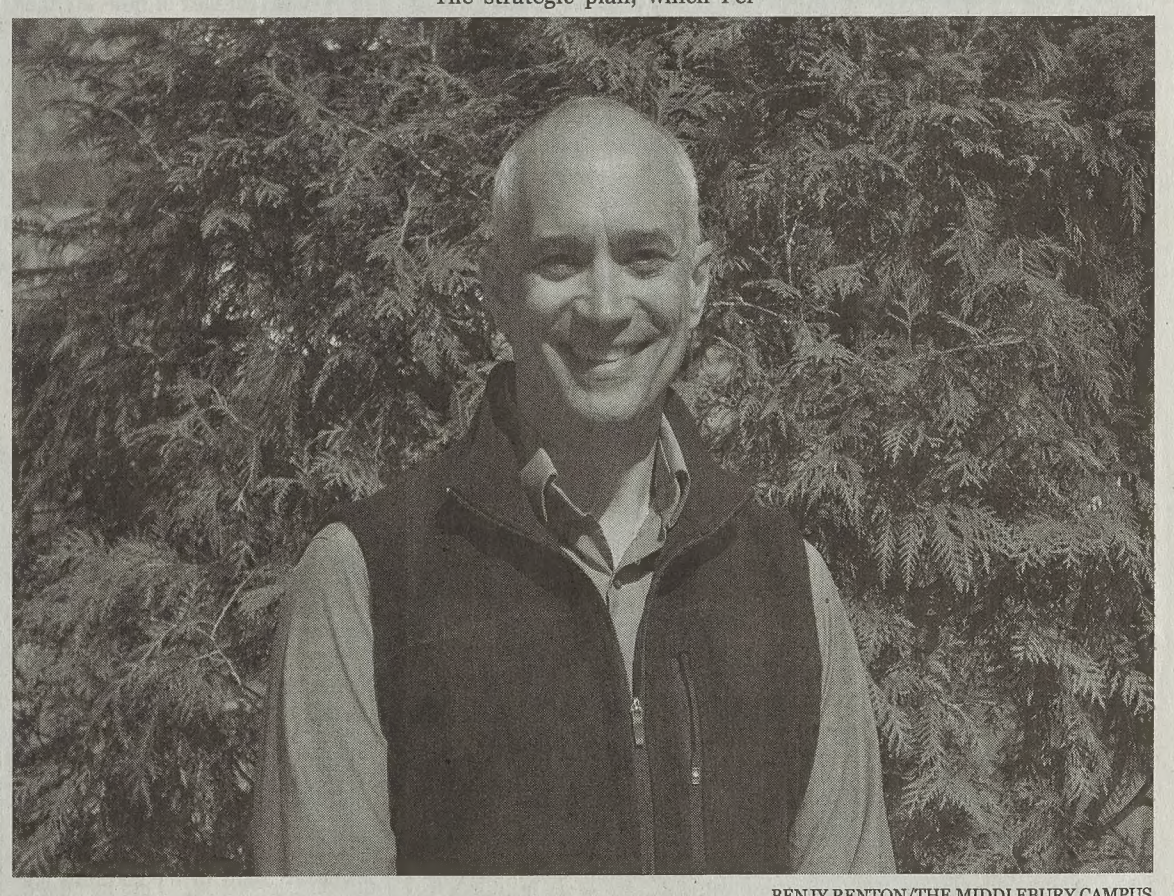
"The statement 'Middlebury is free of harassment,' a huge amount of faculty, staff and students disagree with that. Same with bullying and same with intimidation. That was an eye-opener for us, seeing how many people felt that across all groupings. It wasn't just people from minority groups."

— Miguel Fernandez, Chief Diversity Officer

Fernandez also plans to listen closely to student concerns as the strategic plan is rolled out. A recent student campaign to diversify and decolonize college curricula is an example of a student group whose input the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion hopes to hear as the plan gathers steam this fall.

"It's important to keep in mind that student concerns change rapidly," Fernandez said, adding that his office should be held accountable for keeping a finger on the pulse of campus opinion as the action plan is written and rolled out.

"We're talking about decolonizing curricula right now, but that conversation could evolve drastically in three to five years, and we want to take that into account," Fernandez said.



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Chief Diversity Officer Miguel Fernandez said that the strategic plan, based off the recommendations from the 2019 report, will take three to five years to implement in full.

Vijayakumar '20 Elected SGA President, Lezama '22 to Lead Community Council

Continued from Page 1

tions dropped drastically this year, down from 1,686 last spring to 1,026 this spring. This year's turnout rate was just 36.81%.

Joel Machado '22 came in second place with 25% of the vote (253). John Gosselin '20, current co-chair of Community Council, came in third place with 15 percent of the vote (162).

Roni Lezama '22 was elected co-chair of Community Council for the full 2019–2020 academic year. Lezama ran uncontested. Lezama, a first-year, is ready to engage with the community and take on difficult and important conversations.

"More than anything, I'm looking forward to being in more conversations with staff because they are crucial to the well-being of the Middlebury community, and I want to embrace their embrace their ideas, opinions and proposals to ensure their own well-being on campus," Lezama said.

Six other races were also uncontested. No one ran for the position of Brainard senator for the fall semester. According to a current senator, there will be a special election held in the fall to fill the position during First-Year Senator elections.

How SGA Senators Drafted Their Letter to Admin

Continued from Page 1

brought to the administration but were either tabled or overlooked.

"There is a long history of SGA recommendations being ignored," Sanderson said.

As it stands now, SGA resolutions are mostly symbolic recommendations to college officials — no real student check exists on administrative authority. But in the letter, the senators claim a right to participate in administrative decisions.

"Our tuition funds the college, and the college's purpose is our education," senators wrote. "Middlebury College is first and foremost a school, not a corporation. Why is it that decisions are often made with little to no consent or involvement from us in our own school?"

In an op-ed published by The Campus Tuesday afternoon, SGA President Nia Robinson '19 supported the actions of senators regardless of where they stand and promised to keep advocating for students in her role.

"For the final weeks, I will continue to support those who come to me and offer advice to any students who will listen. I will continue to advocate for them whether in trustee or SLG meetings when I am the only student in the room," Robinson wrote. "My sole goal is, and has always been, to help leave this campus in a better state than I found it."

REACHING A BREAKING POINT

The letter enumerates instances of administrative neglect of student proposals, from the failure to make Middlebury a sanctuary campus in 2016 to the recent cancellation and fallout from the the controversial scholar and Polish politician Ryszard Legutko's scheduled lecture, which also resulted in the cancellation of a peaceful, non-disruptive student protest scheduled to take place outside. In the letter, senators condemn the administration for waiting until Friday, April 19 to unequivocally say that the student protesters were not the security concern. That delay, they write, caused misinformation about the protest to spread

No member of the SGA reached by The Campus would comment on the record about the alleged interaction with an administrator.

VETTING SPEAKERS

After The Campus posted the letter online Tuesday, debate ensued over the senators' third proposal, which calls for the creation of a due diligence form that includes questions aimed to determine whether a speaker's views align with Middlebury's community standards, "removing the burden of researching speakers from the student body."

The proposal also asked for each academic department to create a student advisory board that would have access to a list of invited speakers one month in advance in order to provide feedback when necessary.

"This is absurd. Students should relish the chance to research speakers, to interact with speakers, to debate with speakers," Rich Cochran '91 wrote on The Campus Facebook page. "I am shocked that the SGA would publish this list of unilateral demands."

Sanderson clarified to The Campus that the proposal would not bar speakers from campus. Instead, the answers to the form would be made public to inform the community in advance of the speaker's arrival.

"If anything, this ensures a greater degree of informed free speech and assembly," he said. "Critics are arguing that we want to keep speakers from campus, which is incorrect."

THE PROCESS

Senators first began to discuss what would eventually become the letter on Wednesday afternoon in the wake of the Legutko cancellation. Over the weekend, they began to gather feedback from student leaders, including the heads of cultural organizations and leaders of the Legutko protest. Some senators spent most of Friday drafting the letter, which they then shared with all senators.

Vijayakumar was one of the students who spent the better part of the day working on the letter. She was also notified around midday that she had won the SGA presidency.

Student Association Votes Dissolution Pending Student Referendum Approval

By BARRY SULLIVAN
Managing Editor

The Student Association voted 12 to 4 Monday night to dissolve the association "pending a student referendum."

The motion was introduced by SA President John Rogers, who had yielded the chairmanship of the meeting to Vice-President Linda Rebucci.

Rogers later told the Campus that he considered the resolution "a positive rather than a negative action, and in the best interest of the future of student government at Middlebury College."

The vote was taken at the end of a two and a half hour meeting attended by most of the members of the Student Association. Many of the members expressed disappointment over the small turn-out of students at a meeting which they considered a crucial one.

The question of the relationship between the student body and the administration was the focal point of the meeting. Yet the discussion was more pointed than at previous SA meetings, and the relationship between the student leadership and the administration was the focal point of concern. The fundamental question seemed to be whether the present close relationship between student leader and administrator fostered in a formal system such as the SA was detrimental to

SA presidential candidate John Sawyer argues against a proposed recommendation that the organization disband. The resolution later passed, 12-4.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE ARCHIVES

SGA Senators drew inspiration from the 1967 decision by the Student Association, equivalent at the time to today's SGA, to dissolve itself, as reported in this February 1967 Campus article.

in the national media.

Senior Senator Alexis Levato '19 said that the SGA saw the period following the lecture cancellation as an opportune moment to act.

"I think we cared about these issues as individuals, and cared about them as SGA, but didn't feel there was a possibility of actually doing anything until this happened," she said. "Which I think speaks to the way the administration is structured, that it only really allows students to be activists in moments in which it's blowing up in their faces."

Varsha Vijayakumar '20, a junior senator and the SGA president-elect, also saw the moment as a culmination of SGA and student activists' frustrations.

"I personally reached a point where I feel like the administration has been taking advantage of our empathy, and I think that's unfair to put a disproportionate burden on students to work hard to make this place more like a home for students," she said. "We're at a point where it's not just the SGA, but also a lot of student activism and mobilization that is pushing for change. And we want to support that."

The letter alleges that it was only when administrators heard that senators were discussing dissolution that they said, in an email sent by Provost Jeff Cason and Dean of the Faculty Andi Lloyd, and forwarded to students by Dean of Student Baishakhi Taylor, that "our assessment of the potential safety risks of Wednesday's planned lecture did not reflect concerns about threats from student protesters or students attending the event. Rather, we were concerned about the safety of those participants."

"We are extremely disappointed that only after hearing threat of SGA's dissolution did an administrator publicly clear organizers of blame as the unnamed security threat that led to cancellation of the Ryszard Legutko event," the letter reads.

"I celebrated for maybe 20 minutes, but that was not my focus," she said. "It's the last thing I'm thinking about. Even on Friday, the entire day, I was working on these demands."

On Sunday, April 21, senators went into executive session during and following their regularly scheduled meeting to discuss the draft. The session lasted one hour.

The following night, senators hosted a student-only town hall in Mead Chapel to gather feedback on the letter and demands. Robinson opened the forum by reading the demands and introduced the senators' proposed plan to resign. Then, attendees divided into focus groups to discuss further. Each group parsed the drafted demands and suggested modifications to senators, who led the groups. Senators then met later that evening to finalize the letter based on student feedback. According to Vijayakumar, they discussed the suggestions made on every point, and identified major trends in feedback in an attempt to incorporate as many as possible.

In an interview with The Campus, Sanderson stressed the senators' desire to involve other members of the community in the draft. He said the SGA is only one forum in which students have tried and failed to work with administrators to address the concerns of the student body. Specifically, he cited the title of the letter, which was recommended by members of the community. They also received emails with suggestions and ideas from students who could not attend the town hall.

When asked about the college's recent work with students to divest from fossil fuels by 2028, Sanderson said that the administration did not adequately credit student activists in their announcement.

"In the case of divestment, it was a massive student campaign for a long time, but it was co-opted by the administration in the end," he said. The letter addresses this concern: "Students who work on these initiatives alongside faculty must receive credit for their work, and will not be excluded from these initiatives once faculty begin working on them."

When reached for comment, Community Council Co-Chair John Gosselin '20 said he supported some of the senators' demands and disagreed with others.

"I disagree with the general strategy of demands and dissolution because it has forced the student government to express opinions too quickly and without any nuance, reflection, or evidence of serious discussion, despite the best efforts of the SGA meeting on Sunday and the poorly attended student town hall on Monday," he said.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

In 1967, members of the Student Association, then equivalent to the SGA, took a similar approach to addressing feelings of powerlessness vis-à-vis the administration. Members saw the body as a mouthpiece for administrative decisions and doubted its own ability to advocate for students, and voted to hold hold a campus-wide referendum on the body's dissolution. The proposal passed overwhelmingly among students, who voted 407-70 in favor. Two years later, the current iteration of the SGA, newly-endowed with more representative and legislative capacities, formed.

Today's SGA is drawing inspiration from its predecessors' decision.

"When circumstances mirror those faced by student leaders half a century ago, we must consider options similar to the ones they faced," senators wrote. "In the words of Brian Maier, the equivalent of an SGA senator at the time, 'we must take power rather than ask for it.'"

But senators are also wary of the unintended consequences their predecessors' actions had on the student body. Last time, dissolution of the Student Association left student organizations without funding. This time, the resignation of senators would leave the other components of the SGA intact, including the SGA President's Cabinet and the SGA Finance Committee, which allocates the student activities budget.

"We don't want to hurt students and nullify all the projects they've spent a full semester working on. That's definitely not our intent," Levato said. "I think we're learning from that decision in order to make sure that students are only positively affected by this."

Senators still think, though, that the threat is substantial enough to warrant a serious response from the administration. Vijayakumar believes the student body is on board.

"We do feel like this is the most productive way to enact change right now on this campus," she said. "We wouldn't be doing it if we didn't think so."

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Professor Keegan Callanan drives away with Legutko.

Legutko Talks to Dickinson's PSCI Seminar

Continued from Page 1

seminar. The talk, initially intended for the nine students in Dickinson's class, became a pseudo-public event as students arrived over the course of the talk, which continued about 15 minutes after the class period ended. Student protesters, who had originally planned to peacefully and non-disruptively protest Legutko's talk with a queer celebration, were not present at the event.

A student in Dickinson's class who was involved in the Hamilton Forum — the speaker series that brought Legutko to campus, headed by Political Science professor Keegan Callanan — asked if he could invite Legutko to the 1:30 p.m. class in the Robert A. Jones '59 (RAJ) House. According to Dickinson, the event was entirely impromptu.

"I asked the students, as part of the classroom experience, do you want to invite him in here to critique his argument," Dickinson told The Campus. When students expressed interest, Dickinson administered a secret ballot. He said that he would not invite the speaker unless there was a unanimous decision to invite him, which there was.

Before Legutko arrived, Dickinson had students research the politician's views and formulate questions. "We spent the first hour of class conducting our own research to gather questions for discussion," said Owen Marsh '20, a student in the class. According to Marsh, Legutko came in to the class about halfway through, at 3 p.m.

Dickinson did not invite students from outside his class because he did not originally intend for the event to be public, but students sporadically filtered into the RAJ conference room throughout the talk. Political Science Professor John Harpham and the students in his "Rousseau" seminar joined the crowd after hearing about the lecture from a student in the class and cutting class short. Some of Harpham's students, who had planned on protesting the original lecture, chose not to attend.

Legutko delivered the lecture he was originally planning to give at the now-canceled event, though it was abbreviated for lack of time. He then took questions from Dickinson and the audience, which was by then comprised of students from his class, students from Harpham's class and other visitors. A portion of the question and answer period was recorded on live stream by The Campus.

Provost Jeff Cason, who sent the school-wide email earlier about the cancelation of the lecture, told The Campus in an email that the college did not know about Dickinson's decision to invite Legutko to his class in advance of it happening. Cason clarified that if the college had received a request, they would have advised Dickinson not to host Legutko "given our safety concerns."

"If we had been approached asking if there were safety concerns, we would have said yes, most definitely," he said. "We don't have any policy to shut down a speaker invited to a class; faculty have speakers come to their classes regularly without any centralized approval."

INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Dickinson asked Legutko if reinterpretations of marriage over time to include same-sex marriage are a social intrusion. Many of the concerns student activists initially voiced about Legutko's visit centered around controversial statements he made regarding same-sex marriage and gay rights.

"I am very reluctant to tamper with the meaning of words," Legutko responded. "Once you change the meaning, you are in for trouble. Marriage as we understood was between a man and a woman. What has happened recently is a radical change. I don't think that we should be allowed to go as far as changing one of the most fundamental institutions of the world."

Legutko took more questions about liberal democracy and his views on tradition. One student asked how Legutko felt about the controversy surrounding his visit, and invoked the Charles Murray incident.

"Charles Murray was the first thing on my mind when I was invited ... It was unpleasant information, but it proves what I wrote in my book ... How can these things happen?" Legutko responded. "Why is there this spirit of ideological crusade?"

Dickinson stepped in to inform Legutko that student protesters had no intention of stopping him from speaking. Callanan, sitting in the audience, argued that there were some students who wanted the invitation revoked, claiming it was "not a majority, but definitely some." Dickinson responded that he respectfully disagreed with Callanan, and that no protesters had an interest in stopping the event.

GOING FORWARD

After the talk, Dickinson expressed concern to The Campus about the administration's decision to cancel the event. He heard about the decision as he was arriving to his class, and though he emphasized that he did not know the details of any alleged safety concerns, felt that the choice to cancel the talk "validates our fears coming out of the Murray talk."

He added that the administration's cancellation of the event denied students the right to protest, another manifestation of free speech.

"In my conversations with the protesters they made it quite clear they were going to voice their concerns about inviting this guy to campus, but they were not going to try to shut him down, which is precisely which should happen," said Dickinson.

"They lost that opportunity to express that feeling of being violated in their own home, and that's their right here as students," he added.

Dickinson also fears that media coverage of the events will reflect poorly on Middlebury.

"[The media] is going to portray this as, once again, Middlebury College not being able to tolerate controversial views, and that's not the case. The students did not shut this down, they did not prevent him from speaking," he said.

Callanan told The Campus that he already invited Legutko back to Middlebury next year. Dickinson said he hopes that Legutko will return.

"I would hope students have the opportunity to protest and engage in response to him appearing on campus in a way they weren't able to this time because of the administration's decisions," Dickinson said.

Although the whole college community did not have the chance to listen to and/or protest Legutko's talk, Dickinson was pleased with how the students in his class engaged with the speaker.

"I was very proud of Middlebury students today, very proud of them,"

Prof. Manley Apologizes for Insensitive Cartoon

Continued from Page 1

poor taste.

"There was one of those awkward tensions in the room when someone says or shows something that people are uncomfortable with," he said.

Caldwell said that Manley always shows a comic at the beginning of class, and that the comics are often unrelated to the content of the course.

"Generally they are pretty cheesy humor and sometimes they get a giggle or two," he said, explaining that this cartoon felt much different from the norm. "The objectification of a human is supposed to be the humor of it, which is not funny."

Caldwell decided to address the situation in the moment. He raised his hand and told Manley that she should not show the comic in the future. He said she was receptive to that feedback.

In response to an email from The Campus, Manley apologized for her decision to show the cartoon in class.

"I am deeply sorry for including a cartoon that makes light of historical atrocities," she said. "I will be apologizing to the class during our next meeting and expressing my deepest regret that I made anyone in the class uncomfortable, and am working with the administration on the possibility of holding a restorative practices circle with my class."

Aaron Bode '22, another student in the class, feels that students should communicate directly with Manley about their concerns as next steps develop, although he also acknowledged that not all students feel comfortable addressing incidents like this with their professors directly.

"I think it's important to remember that she's a human being, we all are, and I think it's important to be in contact with her. I think it's important that there is a lot of communication with her about this," he said.

Bode, who is also in the Chemistry 103 class where the offensive midterm question was posed, also expressed his desire for all professors to undergo mandatory bias training.

"Coming to Middlebury, I didn't think this sort of thing would happen here, but now seeing that it can I think that it's incredibly important that professors realize these things have big impacts on people," he said.

According to Andi Lloyd, the dean of faculty, the administration is currently discussing the best way to proceed regarding the potential of mandatory training given recent events.

"Early next week, we will be holding a facilitated dialogue on classroom climate for faculty who have already asked for a chance to participate in such an opportunity," she said.

Renee Wells, the college's director of education for equity and inclusion who will pilot an anti-bias training program in the fall, has mixed feelings about requiring mandatory training.

"In theory, making training mandatory means everyone participates, but what that 'participation' looks like can vary widely depending on whether people actually want to be there, which can impact the experience and effectiveness of the space for all the participants in the room," she said. "We need to be intentional about determining the best way to meaningfully engage our faculty and staff in these conversations so those conversations can benefit the entire campus community."

Wells explained that her pilot program is not currently designed to be mandatory, but rather to further ongoing conversations that will help reduce bias and change the culture around such incidents on campus.

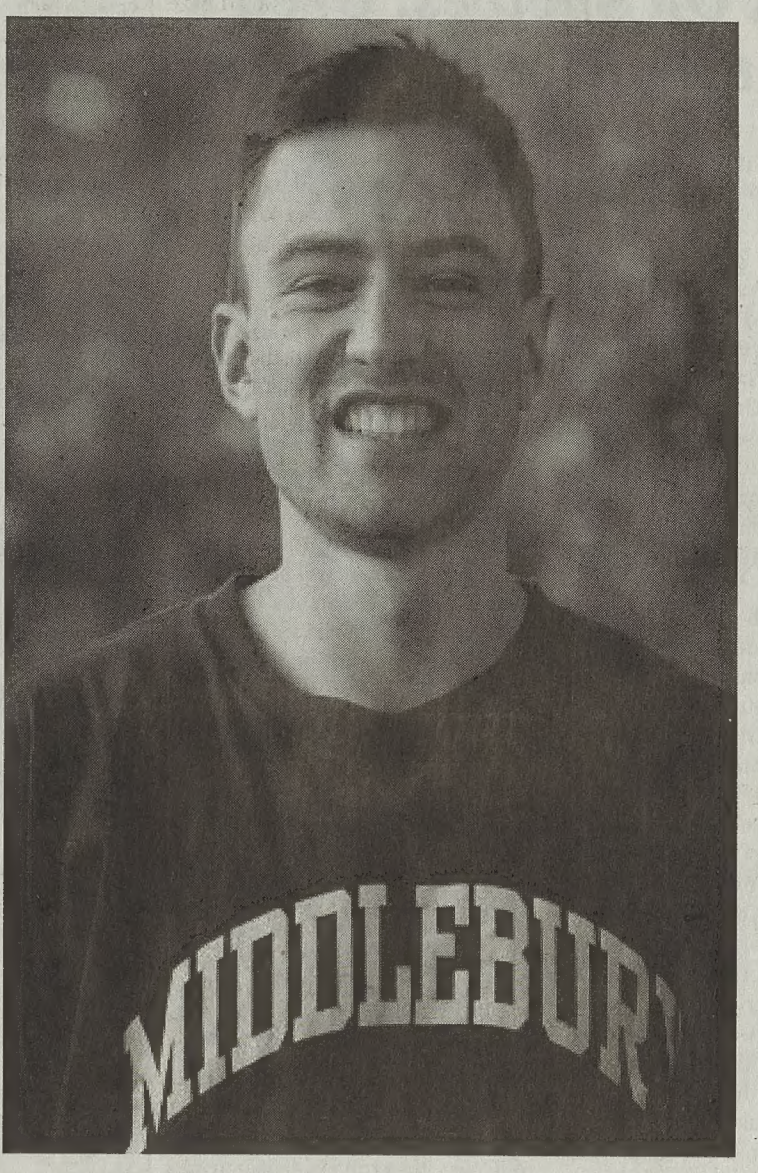
"The ongoing education program for faculty and staff is designed to create space for those conversations to happen and to strategically focus on concrete ways we can adapt our practices to better achieve those goals," she said.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Meet Next Year's Campus Leadership Team

Sabine Poux '20

Editor in Chief



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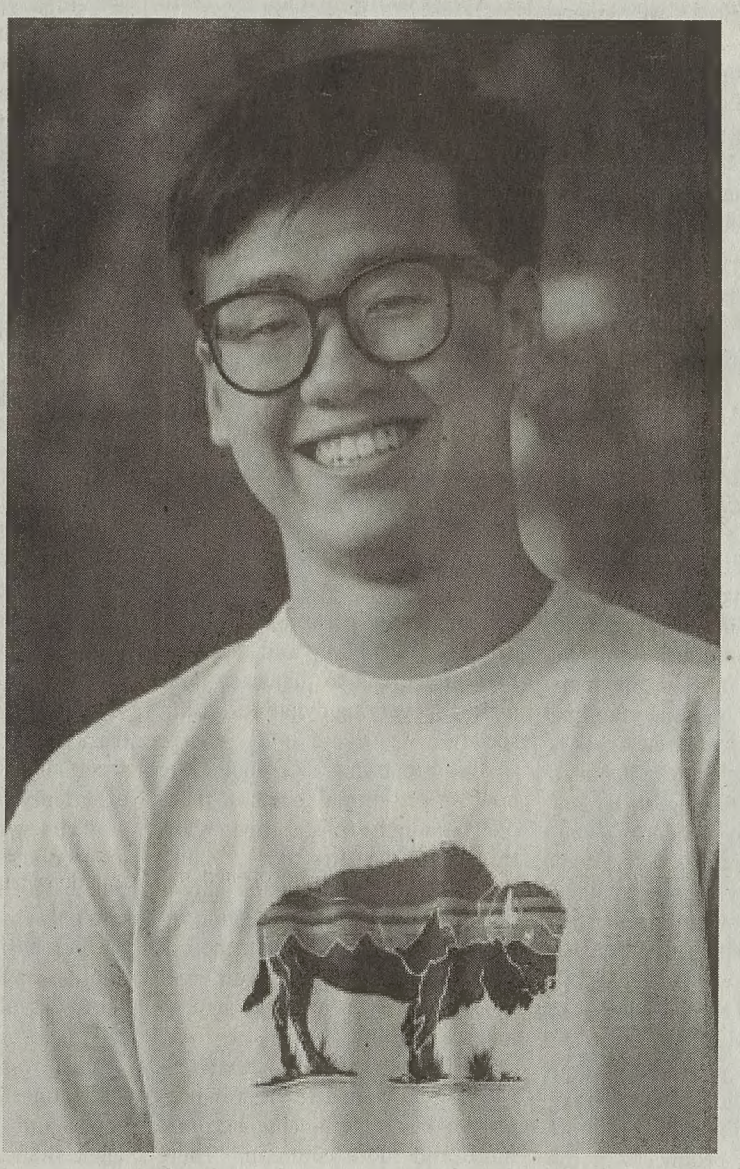
Managing Editor (Full Year)

Sadie Housberg '21

Managing Editor (Fall)



Bochu Ding '21

Managing Editor (Spring)

Learn more at www.middleburycampus.com

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Greg's Meat Market, which has sat empty for several years, will re-open in May.

Back On Shelves: Greg's Meat Market to Reopen

By TAYLOR PHILLIPS
Staff Writer

Tony Neri, local businessman and owner of several retail locations throughout Middlebury, is tackling a new project: reopening the much-beloved Greg's Meat Market on Elm Street. Greg Wry, the longtime owner of the Market, sold it to Bart Livin in 2010, who ran it for six years before filing for bankruptcy in 2016. The building has since been empty until Neri sensed an opportunity to rebuild.

"Originally, he [Neri] bought it with the intention to lease it to another store or a small grocery chain," explained the future manager of the soon-to-open Greg's, Gail Daha. However, given the lack of interest in the space, Neri decided to tackle the project himself, even buying the neighboring Pool World and extensively renovating the space.

Daha and Neri have plans to build on the "corner grocery store" model that worked wonders for Wry. "Greg's service was personal, and that's what we're emphasizing," Daha said, but there will be some new additions when Greg's reopens in mid-May. Daha has plans for a hot bar, salad bar and homemade prepared foods for customers on the go.

The new and improved Greg's Meat Market, which will open at its old location on May 15, will remain remarkably similar to the way it was under Wry's direction, with the inclusion of a large deli, an emphasis on customer service and the butcher shop that fans of Greg's will remember well.

Daha also plans to invite former employees of the original Greg's to return, hoping to retain the similar community spirit the store had in its first iteration. These employees include, as it turns out, Greg Wry himself, who is helping out at the store especially in the preliminary stages of redevelopment. "Greg Wry will be in the store, showing me how to do my job," said Daha.

The community response to Neri's project has been overwhelmingly positive. Several threads on Front Porch Forum are dedicated to lamenting the closing of the store back in 2016, and more recent posts impatiently seek information about the opening date. Greg's had a loyal customer base, and it seems many of these customers will be returning to give Neri's version of a neighborhood market a chance.

"We're being thorough with this," Daha explained of the lengthy wait for the store's opening. "We're trying to do this right rather than rush it."

For most, that project alone would be enough. Before beginning his reopening, Neri had to go through an extensive process of applying to the town's Development Review Board (DRB), convincing them of the potential of his business plan and undergoing revisions of his traffic flow plan for the Pool World building area. David Wetmore, clerk of the DRB, explained that on May 13, just two days before the opening of Greg's, the group will meet to look over Neri's proposal for his property at 55 Middle Road.

Neri's plans for the building center around dividing it into retail spaces for stores or restaurants. Ideally, the DRB will allow Neri to build the space to its former 10,000 square feet.

Neri is taking on a lot, but Daha feels confident about the Greg's project. "We've stuck to the roots," she said. "We want to stay consistent with what people expect." When Greg's opens in May, Daha and Neri will likely be rewarded for their hard work.

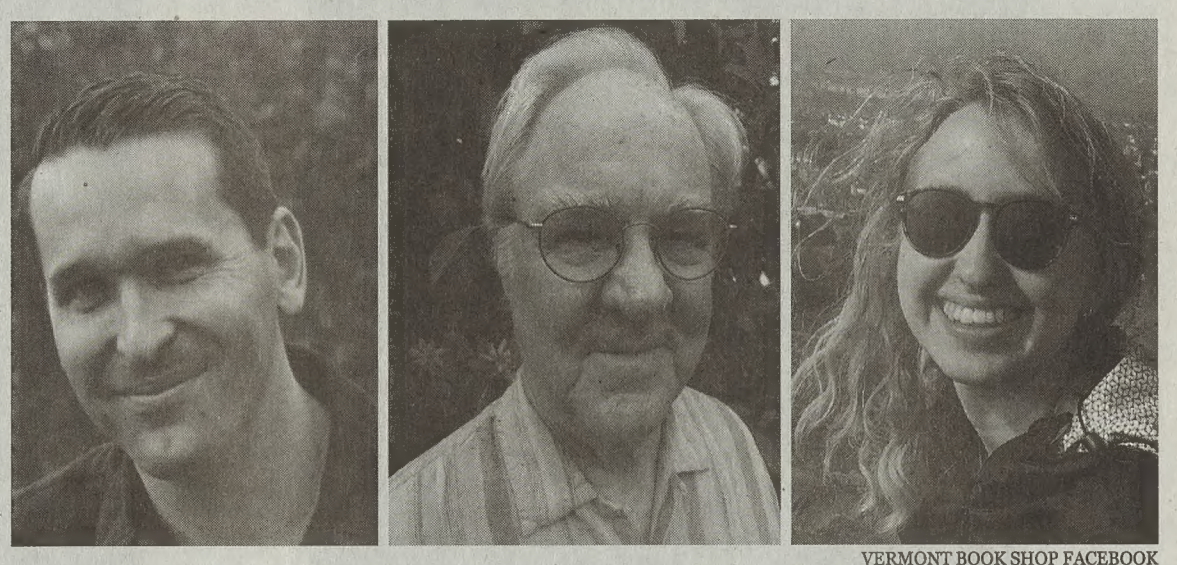
NER's Vermont Reading Series Showcases Up-And-Coming Fiction Writers

By KAYLA LICHTMAN
Staff Writer

An eager crowd filled the Vermont Book Shop to listen to fiction readings presented by the New England Review (NER) as part of its Vermont Reading Series last Thursday, April 18. Three up-and-coming fiction authors, Kylie Winger '19, Brad Felver and David Moats read select passages from their works to a mix of Middlebury residents and students.

Carolyn Kuebler, editor of NER, opened the event. Kuebler offered background into the Reading Series, which is now in its eighth year and has featured authors in various genres, from poetry and memoirs to translations and fiction. She introduced Thursday's writers as "relatively new to the genre but not to writing."

"I always find that if I hear the author read, it gives me a little bit of an in," Kuebler told The Campus. "It's like you know more than is on the page, then. It's an interesting, extra effect."



VERMONT BOOK SHOP FACEBOOK

Three new fiction authors shared their work at the Vermont Book Shop. From left to right: Brad Felver, David Moats and Kylie Winger '19.

First to the podium was Middlebury senior and NER intern Kylie Winger. Winger is a Literary Studies major whose works have appeared in Middlebury's Blackbird Literary Magazine, a student-run arts publication. This previous summer, she was a student scholar at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. At her current internship, she helps develop and host the NER "Out Loud" podcast.

Winger read the first few pages of a piece titled "Fine." The reading focused on the relationship between two friends, Ellie and Thea, and their experience visiting the Art Institute of Chicago. Listeners learned just as much about the characters — one with an eating disorder and the other unsure how to navigate helping her friend — as they did about classical pieces of art.

To the smiles of the audience, Winger put on her best audio guide voice to mimic the experience of learning about art through pre-recorded lectures in one's ears. "Marc Chagall is an artist who we normally think of with these very beautiful, lyrical, dreamlike images," she imitated in a didactic, lilting tone.

After Winger, Brad Felver presented a short piece titled "Stones We Throw" and a portion of his novel in-the-works, "Mother." Felver, a resident of Toledo, Ohio, is an award-winning author whose accomplishments include the 2018 Drue Heinz Literature Prize for his story collection titled "Dogs of Detroit." He is currently on tour doing nationwide publicity for the collection with the University of Pittsburgh Press.

"Stones We Throw" is the story of a boy at his mother's wake, doing his best to avoid the grieving relatives inside the house. "I threw stones until my shoulders ached and thought about how I kind of liked the pain right now, like it was helping somehow," Felver read. The piece explores a brief but meaningful moment between the son and his father at the wake, both of whom are trying to cope with loss.

Introducing "Mother," Felver explained that he is currently on the third draft of the novel, and wanted to read from the first few pages of his draft. "I haven't read this out loud to anyone," he said to the audience.

Similar to "Stones We Throw," "Mother" also focuses on a father-son relationship after the death of a mother. A son reflects on the different facets of his father's identity — "father, priest, pugilist" — and their complicated relationship as the years pass. "He was a son of a bitch, but my God how I wanted to be him," Felver read.

Last to the podium was David Moats. Although fiction is a new genre for Moats, he is already an accomplished writer, with numerous plays and a 2001 Pulitzer Prize for his editorial writing at the Rutland Herald under his belt. In her introduction, Kuebler described Moats as a "Vermont treasure."

Moats read from his unpublished novel "Fletcher Ambrose." The reading switched from the past to the present, dealing with the eponymous protagonist's long-held guilt for having told the husband of the woman he loved as a teenager that she was having an affair. Soon after, the husband is murdered by his wife's lover.

Moats described a scene between a much older Fletcher and his counterpart, Ellen, as they recall what happened, and narrated Ellen's perspective on the affair: "From the outside it's madness, looked back upon it, it's madness. In the midst of it it's glorious and horrible at the same time."

As the event drew to a close, the crowd gathered over cookies and fruit to congratulate the authors and discuss their stories. In total, the three readings ran the gamut of human emotions — curiosity, grief, acceptance, love — and brought readers, for a brief moment, into another world. Kuebler compared the readings to a "sampler," an apt metaphor for that which draws people in and entices them to read more.

With Renovations, New Owners of the Old Stone Mill Seek to Inspire Collaborative Energy, Invigorate Community

By QIAN LI
Contributing Writer

When you walk downtown along College Street, your eye may be drawn to one of Middlebury's iconic and historic buildings — the Old Stone Mill. Built in 1840, this four-and-a-half-story building standing on the south bank of Otter Creek is turning a new leaf in Middlebury's history. Stacey Rainey and Mary Cullinane, the co-owners of Community Barn Ventures (CBV) took over the property from the college — the previous owner for the last decade or so, finalizing the transaction in January.

"The plan for the building is to really create a destination in the community that people can come to daily, see their neighbors, hang out with their friends and celebrate the makers and producers in the area who are making ... some goods we at Middlebury sometimes don't have access to easily," Cullinane said.

According to the renovation plan, the building will bring in a new restaurant on the first floor, open a public market on the second floor and provide a coworking space on the third. Meanwhile, an Airbnb will operate on the upper levels where short-term lodgings can be rented. While each floor has a different function and purpose, there is an interplay between those floors that encourages people to move from one to another while fostering a sense of community.

"Each of those floors have some type of relationship with the things that are going on on the other floors," explained Cullinane. "If someone is at the coworking space and they want to take a meeting, they could go down to the coffee shop and meet with the person down there."

Rainey and Cullinane hope to create a unique experience for the community by curating the space in a thoughtful way and designed the renovations so that each floor highlights varying dynamics within society.

"We are trying to demonstrate how we can rethink some of these old paradigms based upon how things are working today," Cullinane said. "The way people stay is changing — this idea of Airbnb really has had an impact on the opportunity for folks to get a different type of experience when they go into a community."

Cullinane explained that coworking is "changing the way people work" as freelancing becomes more and more common. "There are more folks who are able to work remotely and yet people still want a community."

"It personifies what we need to do as a community to react to our changing times."

Regarding the long legacy of the Old Stone Mill itself, Cullinane especially loves its dedication to innovation, and hopes to maintain this symbolism within the renovations. "[The building] has represented throughout its history Middlebury's ability to adjust ... it personifies innovation," Cullinane said. "It personifies what we need to do as a community to react to our changing times, and it's going to continue to represent that for us."

By broadening choices for customers and removing barriers for vendors to enter the Middlebury market, the public market on the second floor aims to provide a retail experience reimagined.

"[The vendors] are all focused on products that you really want to see, or touch or feel in person, that don't necessarily work as well if you are purchasing them online. That's another way that we are thinking of the types of organizations we are talking to," said Rainey.

Just over 9,000 square feet, the Old Stone Mill is still structurally sound and its stone is still in fantastic shape. Despite the building's good condition, it nevertheless poses certain architectural challenges for the renovation.

"It's actually easier to design new buildings, generally speaking, but this one we really wanted to do because of its significance and its potential in the community," said John McLeod, Assistant Professor of Architecture at Middlebury College. McLeod works on the Old Stone Mill renovation project with his firm McLeod Kredell Architects.

Seeing the falls and the mills as nurturing sources for the town of Middlebury and the college, McLeod felt it was "a chance to preserve and give a new life to a building that is a fundamental part of this place and this community."

"The challenges are that, with any old building, things tend not to be square and plumb and level and clean and precise," McLeod explained. "But what we are trying to do architecturally is really to honor and respect the historic building, and then have what's new, especially on the inside, reveal that historical material and architecture and also have a conversation with it."

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The iconic marble façade of Middlebury's historic Old Stone Mill, soon to house new dining, lodging, shopping and working options.

After moving to Middlebury 15 years ago, McLeod spent the first three and a half years living in a little yellow house right across from the Old Stone Mill. Built at the same time as the mill, the house was the home of the miller.

"I always felt this connection and fondness towards the Old Stone Mill. I taught actually for a semester in the mill ... and my office is just up the hill a little bit from the Old Stone Mill. I see the building and walk by it every day. I have just always admired it architecturally," said McLeod.

The renovation plan includes the installation of a new elevator, an outdoor dining space with a terrace, a bigger deck in the direction of the pedestrian footbridge and a revamp of two stair towers to make them more translucent.

Considering energy efficiency as part of a good architecture design, McLeod believes the renovation project will improve the energy performance of the building.

"The good thing is that ... thick stone walls are really good at dealing with fluctuations in the temperature throughout the day, and even throughout the seasons," said McLeod, explaining that the thick stone walls help temper the climate in both cold and warm weather. They do plan, though, to improve

Continued on Page 7

Legislative Protections for Abortion Rights Clear Vermont Senate

By ABI JUDGE
Contributing Writer

MONTPELIER — This past Wednesday, April 13, the Vermont House of Representatives held a hearing for State Representatives to listen to constituent testimony about Proposition 5, a proposed state constitutional amendment over the Right to Personal Reproductive Liberty. Feminist Action at Middlebury (FAM) provided transportation for students to the Statehouse in Montpelier, where the hearing was held.

This proposed legislation exists within the context of the United States at large, where a national debate over abortion has been taking place for years, with the 1973 Supreme Court case Roe v. Wade as a legal backdrop. While Roe v. Wade currently protects abortion across the country, five states have recently proposed "trigger laws" which would immediately criminalize abortion if Roe v. Wade were overturned, with potential consequences for those seeking abortions as severe as the death penalty. With this in mind, if legislators act to amend the State Constitution to preserve a woman's right to choose, it would hold national significance — especially given that Vermont's constitution is one of the shortest and most difficult to revise.

The proposition is still in the early stages of the amendment process, and has been passed in the Vermont Senate with a vote of 48-2. The next step is a vote in the House of Representatives, but Proposition 5 will need majority votes in the Senate and House legislature as well as a vote of Vermont residents before it is ratified.

Vermont typically cultivates a politically liberal image, something reinforced among other elements by Senator Bernie Sanders's runs for presidential office as well as recent environmental legislation and activism. However, the reality of Vermont political energy is much more complicated. Vermont did pioneer legislation on same-sex marriage (Baker v. Vermont 1999) and environmental oversight (Environmental Oversight Act of 1970), two incidents of progressive lawmaking that set national precedents. On the other hand, a cultural emphasis on property rights, gun ownership and individual privacy within Vermont tie into typically conservative priorities. Vermont is one of eight states that allow concealed carry without any permit, a classic pillar of conservative policy. Of those eight states — Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Kansas, Maine, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming — only Maine and Vermont have voted Democratic for any presidential election in the past 20 years. Recent decades have seen the Democratic and Republican parties concentrating in urban and rural areas respectively, making Vermont an especially interesting case study.

So, if Vermont tends to act progressively with environmental regulation and more conservatively when faced with, say, gun control, what happens when it's faced with the ever-divisive abortion debate? The answer is: it's complicated.

For one, as with many states, the local pro-life movement in Vermont is incredibly well-organized and vocal. A Google search of "Vermont PR.5" brings up four separate links to the Vermont Right to Life Committee within the first page of results. No such links exist to pro-choice groups. That said, many Vermont residents do support the right to choose an abortion, as evidenced by the Senate 48-2 vote in favor of PR.5.

> ***"Especially since Vermont is such a small state, I really felt like my presence there mattered."***

The hearing on Wednesday, then, exposed a wide rift in opinion among voters. Perhaps to avoid confrontation or perhaps just to streamline the process of the public hearing, both those in favor of the proposition and those against entered the Statehouse from different sides of the building. The Planned Parenthood VT Action Fund offered trademark-pink shirts to arriving supporters, and as a result many of those in the chamber wore T-shirts emblazoned with "I Stand With Planned Parenthood."

Constituents were each allowed the chance to testify for two minutes before a committee and the general public, often reading their thoughts from prepared notes. Several of those speaking in favor of Proposition 5 noted that they had not planned to speak, but were moved to express their support by others' testimony. Others had pages of printed opinion of which they only had time to read portions. Despite rules against posters in the House chamber, one constituent displayed a poster of a fetus until he was asked to put it away.

Testimonies in favor of the proposition included opinions from health educators and nurses. Students and retirees alike consistently returned to themes of bodily autonomy, liberty and the freedom that comes with a right to choose.

Those against the proposition often spoke of their religious affiliations and the ethical concerns over fetal life, bringing up concepts of sin, crime and the duty of motherhood. Several of those speaking against the proposition cited medically, financially and scientifically inaccurate information about abortions and Planned Parenthood. These claims included that Planned Parenthood made billions of dollars from abortions, used fetus body parts to create humanized lab rats on which to test HIV and engaged in advertising campaigns to "increase demand" among American women for abortion.

"It's strange to hear such radical opinions and misinformation from people in my own state and community," said Emma Bernstein '21, a FAM member who helped organize transport to the Statehouse. "I know those beliefs exist, but I never think of them being expressed by people I could pass on the street."

Regardless of the divided testimonies, many of those who traveled to Montpelier with FAM expressed their interest in witnessing the process of local politics. "Especially since Vermont is such a small state, I really felt like my presence there mattered," said Haley Goodman '21."I hope it passes."

The House of Representatives has yet to vote on Proposition 5.

COURTESY PHOTO/PAIGE FEESER
Middlebury students and activists stand with Planned Parenthood at the Statehouse in Montpelier.

Exploring The OSM's Renovation Plans

Continued from Page 6

efficiency by adding insulation in key areas such as the roof.

Previously part of the Old Stone Mill program of the college, the building provided a supportive space for many students to pursue non-academic, self-designed projects. The place served as an incubator for entrepreneurialism, creative passions and new ideas.

"Part of the beauty is that so many people use it for so many different things. We had one guy who wanted to store his computer to develop an app. He was the winner of MiddChallenge," said Sarah Haedrich '19.5, an environmental studies and geography major and a board member of the Old Stone Mill.

While the program is in transition to a new space and a rebranded name, Haedrich hopes that the kind of collaborative supportive creative energy will continue at the Old Stone Mill.

"It would be really cool for that space to be a good link ... for town people and students to interact and hopefully it can be an inviting space. People are working, and hopefully they are collaborating too, and new relationships can be formed," Haedrich said.

"It's a really cool old building that is right in the center of town, so it will be fun to see what they do with it," said Erik Arvidsson '21, a joint History and Political Science major and another board member.

"I think it's great idea, especially because nicer Airbnb apartments probably get used by a lot of visiting parents and alumni. And hopefully CBV can provide the advice and support for the businesses that inhabit the space to stay afloat because I know there have been a lot of businesses going under and closing their doors in town," continued Ardivsson.

According to Rainey, the college will have access to one of the vendor stalls in the public market and ten spaces in the coworking level for a period of ten years. Both Rainey and Cullinane wanted the building to continue providing a stage for student work as well as to support student lifestyle.

"It really is a local team, the owners, the contractor, we the architect, the engineers, everybody is part of this community, and everyone is excited to bring this online to invigorate what's already a great downtown and really have an opportunity to bring the town and the college together," said McLeod.

For any ideas, questions, and comments regarding the renovation plan, please contact CBV at connect@communitybarnventures.

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Admin Failed Protesters and Lecture Organizers

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

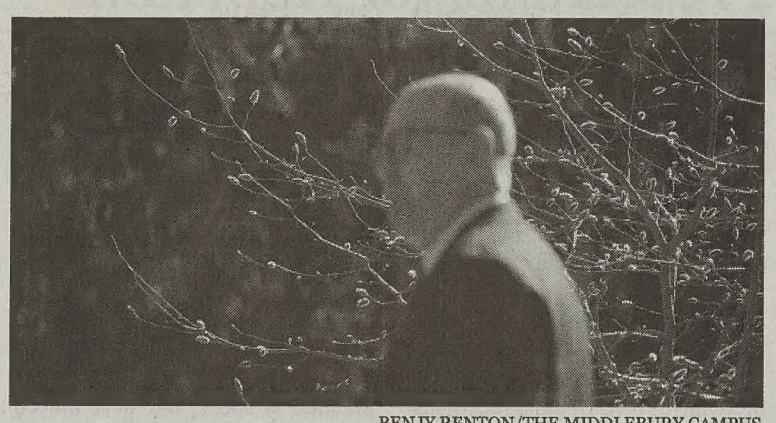
Last week, the administration canceled a talk by conservative Polish scholar and politician Ryszard Legutko due to safety concerns. Prior to the cancellation, students had planned a non-disruptive protest in conjunction with a queer pride celebration to challenge Legutko's homophobia and misogyny.

The administration took two days to specify that student protesters were not the cause of their security concerns. Regardless of the administration's good intentions, the lack of specificity about the threat subjected Middlebury and its student protesters to an unjust swarm of national criticism which understood protesters to be the cause of the security threat.

Many student organizers devoted hours to carefully planning the protest in accordance with Middlebury's new protest policies. The protest had been meticulously set up to be non-disruptive and strictly non-violent; the student protesters did their part to adhere to college policy.

Middlebury, however, did not uphold its end of the bargain. The institution failed to provide an adequate space for free expression. Any vetting that took place was obviously not thorough enough to prepare the college to accommodate Legutko's visit. Had the administration been more prepared, they could have hired additional security to enable both the talk and the protest to proceed as planned.

Although the public talk at the Kirk Alumni center did not take place, Legutko did speak on campus, to Political Science Professor Matthew Dickinson's "American Presidency" seminar in the Robert A. Jones House conference room. While Legutko's appearance there was initially private and restricted to the seminar's nine registered students, the talk became somewhat public as word spread throughout campus and more students began to arrive. At the talk, asked about his views on homosexuality, Legutko replied, "Same-sex marriage is against the fundamental law of the human race." His comment is disgusting, and would most likely lead to disciplinary action if said by a student in the classroom.



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Ryszard Legutko outside the Robert A. Jones House on April 17.

Because student protesters were not informed of this semi-private talk in advance, they had no adequate opportunity to protest or challenge Legutko's ideas. This was partly due to their concern for their own safety. After the office of the provost cited unnamed "potential security and safety risks" in the email canceling the event, some students who had dressed for the pride event did not know whether they were safe on campus.

Although the cancellations of both the protest and the talk are regrettable, we disagree with the choice to give Legutko a private platform after student protesters had been denied a chance for public expression. Students have the right not only to hear and debate ideas with which they disagree, but also to protest them. The college's handbook specifically states that students may express ideological opposition so long as their protests are non-disruptive and non-violent. Professor Dickinson has said it was a shame that the student protest did not take place, but the decision to invite Legutko to speak in R.A.J. showed disrespect and disregard for the students who had spent hours planning the protest.

Middlebury was deeply divided after the Charles Murray protests in 2017, but the college community is now largely in agreement that the Legutko protest ought to have happened. Student organizers deliberately planned their protest to accommodate college policy, but were robbed of their platform. The community could have benefited from the protest as well as the talk. The two events together would also have been a perfect opportunity to test the new protest policy.

In the future, Middlebury must seriously consider how it can simultaneously support both protesters and speakers in its quest for a robust public sphere; these two goals do not have to be at odds.

Official Statement by Middlebury Student Organizers Regarding the Events of April 17, 2019

Editor's Note: The below statement represents the views of more than 50 student organizers. The Campus granted them anonymity due to the security concerns cited by the administration in their decision to cancel yesterday's lecture by Ryszard Legutko.

To preface this release we would like to reiterate the first paragraph of our April 17th, 2019 Statement of Protest Intention:

Our intention for the protest was to create an affirming, nonviolent space for marginalized people (particularly those impacted by Ryszard Legutko's hateful rhetoric) to celebrate themselves and each other. Middlebury's elevation of Legutko to a legitimate academic platform echoes the events concerning Charles Murray in 2017, and once again represents an attack on Middlebury students of marginalized identities and their sense of both safety and value. We had no intention of preventing Legutko from speaking, nor preventing our peers from attending. Rather, we wanted to provide information to contextualize his talk and detail Legutko's history of hateful speech against LGBTQ+, Muslim, and Jewish folks, as well as women and POCs. We planned to create a non-disruptive, respectful counter-space to create a place of healing and inclusivity in the face of prejudice.

In the past 24 hours we have received several emails from the college concerning the talk by Ryszard Legutko. We are appalled by the college's representation of the events and, specifically, their portrayal of our role in the talk's cancellation. We have decided to release this statement in an attempt to clarify the situation, legitimize our perspective, and uphold how these events have affected us as a group and as individuals.

Organizers worked throughout the week to develop a protest that would comply with the college's policies in order to ensure that the administration and the public would not find fault with student activists. Student activists were transparent with the administration throughout the entire planning process. We complied with Public Safety regulations and took every precaution to ensure the safety of protesters and those attending the talk, all while working directly with administrators. We dedicated ourselves to a nonviolent and non-disruptive protest, and fully planned on honoring that dedication throughout the protest itself.

Student organizers were notified that the event had been canceled by the same email that was sent to the Middlebury College community at 1:23 pm on Wednesday, April 17. The notification caught us by surprise and its failure to explain who or what constituted "a security threat" unsettled us. As we were collectively committed to non-disruptive, nonviolent action, the undefined security threat could only have been a threat against us, against our bodies. We spent the day afraid for our safety.

After receiving notification that the event had been canceled, we immediately suspended our gathering. Preventing Legutko from speaking was never our intention, and we did not want to celebrate its cancelation. Given the unspecified safety concerns, we also feared for our safety in hosting a highly visibly event at another location. We are unhappy with the lack of transparency on the part of the administration in its decision to cancel the event. We believe that our planned response to Legutko was to be an act of critical engagement and free speech—an act which we were denied.

Student organizers only discovered that Legutko had been invited to speak to Professor Matthew Dickinson's class through the Facebook Live Stream recorded by The Campus. Organizers immediately went to the administration for information and answers, only to find that Administration was not aware of the fact either. Conscious decisions were made to not protest the live stream or interrupt the talk.

Numerous requests that the administration specify publicly that protesters' actions did not constitute the "security threat" were ignored. All administrative statements maintained an ambiguous (and highly misleading) articulation of the protesters' role in the event's cancellation.

We hope that this statement will serve to clarify our original plan and intentions, which media and administrative representations have mystified. We also hope that this will highlight the ways in which national media and the College are attempting to capitalize on a false narrative. We stand with all students whose identities and experiences have been fundamentally invalidated, and we condemn the irresponsible misrepresentations of both our actions and intentions.

Editor's Note: This piece was originally published on the Campus website on April 18, 2019.

Re-visioning Our Education: A Call to Support SGA's Proposals

By VEE DUONG & JULIANA DUNN

This past week, we were angry. We were disappointed. We were not surprised. The Political Science Department (PSCI), the Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs (RCGA), and Middlebury administration had blatantly disrespected the Middlebury community once again.

On Saturday, April 13, we wrote an open letter (go/openletter), inviting the Middlebury community to join us in urging PSCI and RCGA to rescind their co-sponsorship of the far-right funded Alexander Hamilton Forum's (AHF) event featuring the Polish bigot (see our open letter for analysis of his bigotry), Ryzard Legutko, scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, April 17. Rescinding co-sponsorship, which we understood to be symbolic (PSCI nor RCGA provided funds), would have meant a lot to current Middlebury students.

By Tuesday night, April 16, our letter represented the concerns of over 840 Middlebury community members, including student leaders, alumni, faculty, staff, and many others. Many of the signees interact daily with and have had their Middlebury educations greatly impacted by these two institutional bodies; their pain and frustrations, caused by these trusted figures' decision to [illegible] on to the engagement of a notoriously racist, misogynistic, xenophobic, homophobic speaker, are evident.

The responses from PSCI and RCGA (go/responses) were predictable at best and flippant and contemptuous at worst. PSCI and RCGA's subsequent actions, however, which were undoubtedly carried out in coordination with administration, further disregarded the pain and frustrations of marginalized Middlebury community members and of the 840+ community members and groups on our open letter.

PSCI additionally disregarded the concerns of many PSCI majors, while RCGA Director Tamar Meyer ignored the dissent of multiple faculty members of the RCGA faculty steering committee and the entire student steering committee. PSCI and RCGA were not done ignoring the Middlebury community, however — they also proceeded to host two private events with Legutko, closed to the public, preventing any expression of dissent or protest. Their privately-hosted discussion and dinner events stood in direct opposition to the same free-speech rhetoric that was touted in their responses and at the last minute pre-Legutko panel, where it was reiterated by PSCI faculty that students should challenge Legutko in community, in order to educate peers or third-parties who may not already understand the gravity of bigotry. We ask, where were the third-parties during these private events?

We were angry. We were disappointed. We were not surprised.

Two years ago, administration strung students along, meeting to meeting, empty promise after empty promise. We have seen no meaningful institutional change, and we will not see meaningful change until we collectively demand it.

This is why we support the SGA's Thirteen Proposals for Community Healing.

SGA's proposals were made in conjunction with members of the student body at a town hall meeting on Monday, April 22. Students were given time and space to discuss, challenge and amend these proposals in small groups, with senators listening and taking notes. Regardless of anyone's level of awareness about the current campus climate or about SGA processes, senators were patient and receptive to questions, steadily providing answers with whatever insight that they had.

As two seniors who have been here since 2015, this is the first time that we have felt so heard by our elected student senators. It is easy to disregard the role of an SGA senator, especially when you forget who they are a few days after election results are announced. The SGA showed themselves to be taking their work seriously this past Monday.

We crafted these proposals in community, and we believe that the final list of thirteen requests adequately reflects not only the desires of those in the SGA but of a vast number of students on this campus.

Up until this point, we, as current students, have been on the backburner of everyone's agendas. We have had enough of having our educations dictated to us from someone else's pulpit and our concerns brushed aside in favor of those coming from non-student voices.

We demand Middlebury College to recenter students and our needs in the education it offers us. Administrative acceptance and dedication to the Thirteen Proposals for Community Healing are a key component to this long-term revisioning.

We were angry. We were disappointed. We are taking action.

We encourage all students and student leaders to pay close attention to the administration's response to these community proposals. We encourage vocal, explicit support from students for our administration to meet these requests.

We have a few suggestions for what support can look like. Support can come in the form of social media posts, letters of endorsements from student leadership, mass emails to student membership sharing these proposals and why your group supports them.

We wholeheartedly believe in the strength of our collective student voices, and we believe in the capacity of our administration to strive for and to achieve our communal requests.

Vee Duong & Juliana Dunn are members of the Middlebury College class of 2019.

A Personal Statement

By NIA ROBINSON

In a conversation I had a few weeks ago, we talked about how grateful we were for a mild year, compared to the previous years. We made sure to knock on wood, so we didn't jinx it. Perhaps the wood was fake or we didn't knock loud enough. Maybe we were naïve for thinking knocking on wood would do anything in the first place.

So far, April has been one of the hardest months for the campus, for SGA, and for all of us personally. From the chemistry professor to the talk to campus life speeding up as it does every spring, our minds are spinning in millions of directions trying to process the environment around us. In classes, I hear people talk about whether or not they think Legutko should have spoken. In Proctor, I hear students planning protests and talking about how they are going to respond right before needing to run to class. Whether it is in the dorms or in Crossroads, the atmosphere on campus is heavy and exhausting.

I am sure you have all heard rumors about SGA and the plans to dissolve. I have spent the last week wrestling with where I stand on it and what responsibility I have to SGA, students, the general Middlebury community and to myself.

On one side, I think about how I talk to alums and hear about how they approached similar grievances marginalized students are currently facing. I share the frustration of the students around me who spend countless hours in Old Chapel feeling like their voices are not acknowledged. When I think about the Black Lives Matter flag that is still under my bed, when I console my peers who question why they're doing all of this work for free, when there are students who are ambivalent and undisturbed in the face of their peers' hardships—these are the moments where I too question the purpose of the work that we do.

On the other side, dissolving SGA would put more work on students who too are struggling with the same questions I asked above. How can I expect the "essential" operations of SGA—like Finance Committee—to keep functioning if I myself refuse to show up? Who is going to pick up the pieces if the people who make up SGA are taking it apart? As president, as a person who cares about this school, and as a member of this community, I have realized it is my job to weigh all aspects. When I talked to my cabinet to get their opinion, they all raised valuable points. Drew Platt, co-director of external affairs, said, "governments that shut down are not the ones we want to emulate." Later he asked, "are we trying to make a statement or are we trying to make change?" When I heard these comments, I took a moment to consider the moment we're in. Students are in a crucial moment where we can drastically help move this community in a positive direction. And in any moment like this one, there needs to be work done on all fronts.

Students didn't elect me to tell them what they want to hear. They didn't elect me to sit by and watch them make the same errors as those who came before us. I believe in learning from history. I believe in the power of students. I believe in the student organizers and the students on SGA. I also believe in calculated risks and understanding a problem fully before making a decision.

For the final weeks, I will continue to support those who come to me and offer advice to any students who will listen. I will continue to advocate for them whether in trustee or SLG meetings when I am the only student in the room. I will continue to make strides to increase how many students are in the room. I will continue to work within (and sometimes outside of) my power to ensure students are involved in the decisions that affect the way they live, work, and exist on campus. My sole goal is, and has always been, to help leave this campus in a better state than I found it.

Nia Robinson is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2019 and is SGA President.

Editor's Note: This piece was originally published on the Campus website on April 23, 2019.

A Tale of Two Worldviews

By ERIK BLEICH

For the second time in just over two years, a controversial visitor has divided our campus.

As chair of the political science department, I have heard strong arguments both to retain and to rescind co-sponsorship of these types of talks. I believe that these arguments are so passionate because they pit core values against one another. Even more importantly, I believe the frustrations of both sides are rooted in a deeper divide. Advocates hold fundamentally different worldviews, which makes it virtually impossible for them to resolve their differences through reasoned discussion.

On the one hand, some people have a liberal individualist perspective. These folks often lean on the writings of John Stuart Mill to advocate a wide open terrain of debate. They believe that every person's viewpoint has equal value in the marketplace of ideas. Short of direct incitement to violence, your speech, my speech, his speech and her speech are straightforward inputs into the public sphere that deserve to be considered. Statements should be evaluated on their merits. The best ideas should win the day. This may not transpire in every instance, but the firm protections for free speech, freedom of inquiry and academic freedom are the bedrock for a system of pluralistic individual freedom that has sustained liberal democracies for decades if not centuries.

On the other hand, the starting point for others is a critical theory perspective. From this viewpoint, all is not equal in the world. Some people and some ideas have more power than others. Marginalized groups have structural disadvantages within liberal democracies and within established institutions like Middlebury College. Given these facts, some voices should be elevated in order to create a more equitable playing field that fosters liberation and limits domination. Policies should be developed to reduce the engrained tilt in the playing field that perpetuates the power of the powerful. Black and brown people, LGBTQ and trans people, women, Muslims and those from all status minority groups should be listened to especially closely when they identify practices that inflict harm and demand respect. Not to do so simply entrenches the power differentials that have marked liberal democracies for decades if not centuries.

I have deliberately tried to cast each worldview in terms recognizable from within, but viewed as fatally flawed from without. For me, this reveals the essence of the challenge we face. At its sharpest edge, this juxtaposition leads to questions like, "How can you devalue my point of view in important discussions just because I am white/straight/cis/male?" Or, "How can you uphold status quo principles of freedom that cause actual harm to vulnerable people?" This list of intense and emotion-laden questions could go on.

Identifying this problem can be a first step in reflecting on how to deal with it. There is some good news here. In most discussions when passions are not running high, people tend to recognize elements of truth in both worldviews. This past fall, I taught a political science seminar called "Free Speech versus Racist Speech in the United States and Europe." Among the fifteen students in that class, over two-thirds were on campus during the Charles Murray affair. I was concerned that camps would quickly crystallize and that these worldviews would prove fatal to our discussions. That was not the case at all. Every single student came in with an open mind, and recognized that each perspective may contain, in the words of John Stuart Mill, a "portion of the truth." I nearly jumped for joy at the end of each class.

There is also less good news here. Some absolutists are unwilling to give an inch of ground. For them, the liberal individualist or critical theory perspectives are completely correct, and to acknowledge the claims of the other side is the first step down a slippery slope to tyranny or perpetual oppression. I am not that concerned with this. There will always be true believers. They often amplify the strongest versions of each worldview in ways that can clarify the debate and the stakes for the rest of us.

For the vast majority, the biggest challenge is to figure out how to handle the inevitable tensions in moments of acute incompatibility between our values, such as when invitations are issued to speakers whose writings have been inimical to the well-being of marginalized groups. There is no avoiding this confrontation between wanting to protect academic freedom, freedom of inquiry and freedom of speech, versus wanting to make sure that our institutional structures do not perpetuate the harms inherent in providing a platform to people associated with racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia and other forms of bigotry.

In these circumstances, it seems to me that we have two choices. We can either identify our personal cardinal value and press for it to win the day. When push comes to shove, you may decide that it is worth standing up for freedom of speech even if marginalized communities tell you to your face that it harms them. Or you may stick up for the vulnerable, even if involves undermining a critical principle of freedom in a way that risks being used against minority communities in the future. This is largely what we experienced during the Charles Murray and Ryszard Legutko visits, at least among those willing to speak publicly.

Yet, there is another option, and I think a far better one. As individuals, or, ideally, as a community, we can reaffirm our strong attachment to both values. We have to uphold the freedom of our faculty colleagues to invite or co-sponsor speakers they feel will contribute to important intellectual discussions. Without that academic freedom, we cannot function as an institution of higher learning. We must also acknowledge that some speakers inflict pain on members of marginalized communities through the symbolic power of the platform that we provide them. We need to develop better strategies and policies for this reality, recognizing that the solutions for this challenge are nowhere near as straightforward as simply letting the speaker speak.

This week, in my role as chair of the political science department, I defended the right of my colleague to invite speakers he deems valuable to our intellectual life. That is a key component of academic freedom at any institution of higher education. I also organized—with the help of colleagues and staff, and in response to activism by students representing marginalized groups—a panel discussion designed to identify some of the weaknesses of the argumentation and the problematic nature of our visitor's statements and party affiliation. I have connected with students and listened to their concerns. And I am thinking hard about what other steps we can take as a department to promote the value of inclusivity that is so critical to our department and to our college community.

I know that this solution is not a complete solution. It may mitigate it, but it does not fully resolve the tension between our values. In particular, it won't satisfy those committed to a critical theory perspective. But reaffirming my commitment to these twin values is a first step, and finding ways to demonstrate and intensify our commitment to inclusivity is a next step. It is only through recognizing the tensions between the two worldviews that we can understand why these situations are so complicated. And it is only through a firm commitment to both values that we can find our way forward.

Erik Bleich is Charles A. Dana Professor of Political Science and Chair of the Department of Political Science.

Editor's Note: This piece was originally published on the Campus website on April 18, 2019.

Dear College: Reject This Tale of Two World Views

By SEBASTIAN GRANDIAS

National politicians and news media have painted Middlebury as being at the center of an irreconcilable conflict of values. Freedom of speech, freedom of inquiry, freedom of academic exploration are on one side — which require that even the most blatantly racist, sexist, and homophobic speakers get an unqualified lecture platform. On the other side is the hope that colleges and universities will not sponsor such dehumanizing ideologies by giving their proponents this kind of unchallenged stage. Erik Bleich, the professor who approved the Legutko speech, reaffirmed this narrative in his Op-Ed, "A Tale of Two Worldviews." According to Bleich, "we cannot function as an institution of higher learning," unless each faculty member has the power to give any speaker they want the full, unqualified Middlebury lecture stage. The school cannot take direct action responding to concerns from the community about these talks — or else free speech and freedom of inquiry are done. Under this framework, one worldview or the other must win. There is no room for compromise.

What Bleich does not point out, is that this way of seeing the conflict is itself a worldview. It is a theory, a way of framing the drama. But that theory is constructed. It is not how we have to see the elements at play.

So the question is, is this framework a useful one? Is it a helpful way of seeing things, that allows us to find effective solutions? Well, let's look at the results when the college buys into this narrative: a speaker, Ryszard Legutko, is automatically pre-approved for an unchallenged stage and a school sponsorship, regardless of who he is or what he will be talking about. The organizers of this event provide no information about the speaker's views, not even to the Political Science department, until it comes out the week before the event that the core of this speaker's philosophy is a position of anti-equality and anti-tolerance ("equality is the new despotism"). Many students and faculty, very understandably, feel threatened by the fact that the school would give these views such an unchallenged platform. Sure, we could "ask tough questions," but this would not be a true dialogue — Legutko would only evade giving real answers (as he does in the live-stream of the private lecture he gave in RAJ), and would likely get away with false statements he makes to advance his position (e.g. his unchallenged claim, again in the live-stream, that Poland was a pure victim to Germany in World War II, despite the presence of professors who know better). Regardless of the loud presence of these community concerns, the framework prevents Middlebury from doing anything. The framework says that if the school does anything, it would be the symbolic collapse of free speech and inquiry. Tensions rise, until everything explodes into a haze of security concerns and weird secret lectures. Once the cloud of memes settles, everyone here is left exhausted and hurt.

So then why exactly do we keep using a framework that dooms us to fail?

I think it's because we haven't looked hard enough at exactly what the terms "free speech" and "freedom of inquiry" mean. We have mixed them up with something else. We are using the word "freedom" to mean the power to compel an institution to automatically sponsor any type of community event, regardless of all other concerns. This is what is creating our problem.

Take free speech. The thing is, Legukto would still have free speech, with or without a Middlebury sponsorship and an unchallenged Middlebury stage. Freedom of speech guarantees that each and every person is able to openly express themselves. Nowhere, under any definition, does free speech require a private entity, like Middlebury, to automatically provide an unquestioned platform to any speaker who asks.

And freedom of inquiry? Keegan Callanan, the professor who requested the Legutko talk, has always been free to inquire, research, and publish about Legutko to his heart's content. He is free to teach whole courses about Legutko's stances against immigrant and minority rights. He can even get Middlebury grants to go to Poland and drink tea with the guy — and the thing is, he would have all these freedoms with or without the automatic power to get Middlebury to provide Legutko with a sponsorship and open stage. According to the Association of American Colleges and Universities, freedom of academic inquiry guarantees that professors are not restricted in what they are able to research, publish, and teach. Nowhere, under any definition of freedom of inquiry, is it required that a school automatically host a community event, simply because one professor thinks it's a good idea.

If this is the case, then we can actually have both. We can have freedom of speech and freedom of inquiry. We can study and learn about challenging and controversial issues. And we can host community events in a smarter way — in a way that doesn't dehumanize people and cause campus-wide scandal.

What if, instead of automatically pre-approving Legutko for an unchallenged stage, the Political Science department took a look at his arguments beforehand? They could have realized that Legutko's positions question the humanity of many community members. Recognizing the potential issue, they could ask for input from administration, or even from student leaders. Instead of blindly going with Callahan's desire to format the event as a speech, the department could make the reasonable proposal — based on the highly controversial and potentially harmful nature of Legutko's ideology — to host the event in the format of a panel or conversation. This would make sure there is proper contextualization of his views. It would provide a real challenge to Legutko's assumptions, and an actual stated, scholarly, counterpoint (not just "tough student questions"). It would be excellent academic discourse. Or alternatively, maybe the department could propose a different speaker, one who would bring up the same intellectual issues of anti-tolerance and anti-inequality in Eastern Europe — just maybe not personally embody them. Callahan could accept or reject these offers, maybe propose something in return, until everyone could agree upon an event that is intellectually engaging and that doesn't cause community chaos. If the sides really can't come up with an event that fulfills Middlebury's twin goals of academic inquiry and non-discrimination — then is an event that fails one of Middlebury's core values really worthy for Middlebury to hold?

The week before the planned Legutko event, Middlebury hosted an event on a very difficult, deeply offensive, and dehumanizing ideology: the notion, which many in the world believe in, that some people can own and sell other humans. Did we have canceled student protests and Wall Street Journal Op-Eds? No. We had a panel, where different experts shared different points of view, all critically and respectfully engaging with the issue of human trafficking. Free academic inquiry and respectful concern for an issue that could be triggering for many. Beautiful.

Don't let talk of irreconcilable values tell you that free speech and automatic and unqualified lecture sponsorship are the same thing. As long as we put just a little more thought into the kind of events we put on and how they are approved, then the crisis disappears. Middlebury, I don't want to be writing this again next year. Your two goals are not incompatible worldviews. Both of them are very, very much within reach.

Sebastián Grandas is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2019.5.

Letter: Past ACLU President Supports Hamilton Forum

By NADINE STROSSEN

As a lifelong human rights crusader and immediate past president (1991-2008) of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), I am convinced that grappling with opposing ideas is an essential strategy for promoting equality, dignity, diversity, and inclusivity.

I am heartened that so many college students, including at Middlebury, are actively championing these essential goals. I am also heartened to read, in accounts about the recent Legutko controversy, that many students supported and exercised free speech constructively: the students who planned to attend Professor Legutko's original lecture, to listen, and to ask probing questions; the student in Professor Matthew Dickinson's seminar who suggested inviting Legutko to speak with students in that seminar after College officials had cancelled his public lecture; the other seminar students who voted unanimously to invite Legutko to speak with them and who did engage in vigorous dialogue and debate with him during the "underground lecture"; other students, who learned about Legutko's participation in the underground lecture, and therefore attended it, also engaging in the discussion; and the students who undertook non-disruptive protests against some of Prof. Legutko's ideas, but who explicitly affirmed their opposition to disrupting or disinviting him.

Having read the Hamilton Forum's mission statement, as well as its diverse roster of past speakers and debates, I am impressed by its vital contribution to freedom of thought, critical inquiry, and civil discourse. As Prof. Keegan Callanan wrote in a campus-wide letter before the Legutko lecture had been cancelled: "No questions are out of bounds at Hamilton Forum events. Tough and incisive questions are the coin of the realm." Under Prof. Callanan's principled leadership, the Hamilton Forum offers invaluable educational opportunities for all members of the Middlebury community. I am sorry that, as a result of the College's lecture cancellation, most students on campus were shortchanged, especially those who disagree with some of Prof. Legutko's ideas.

Nadine Strossen is the John Marshall Harlan II Professor of Law at New York Law School and Immediate Past President of the American Civil Liberties Union (1991-2008).

Callanan Pushing False Narratives

By KEVIN MOSS

From the moment I became aware of Ryszard Legutko's statements, I have shared them with the organizers and the sponsors of his talk. The context of the first statement I saw was a new turn towards homophobia in Poland's ruling PiS party, a backlash against the Warsaw mayor Trzaskowski, who offered to extend protections to LGBT people. Legutko echoed the official party line, but added "These activists and organizations are very brutal. They have Bolshevik methods. If someone imagines these people as lost, abused by human prejudices ... of course not! These are the people who rule. They have behind them the most powerful means that exist."

This is a common paranoid fantasy among the anti-gender and anti-LGBT activists I research. Gays are all-powerful. There is no need to protect them. They in fact oppress others. Legutko cites no evidence for his claim. Prof. Callanan thanked me for my "perspective," but has never engaged with the actual quotations I pointed to or rebutted them.

When student organizers publicized quotations from Legutko's book, as well as some from this more recent talk on Polish TV, Prof. Callanan did respond: in a letter to Political Science (PSCI) students defending Legutko, he says of these quotations, "Some are doctored and others accurate, some in context and others not." Like Legutko, he cites no evidence for these claims. My colleagues and I have checked the quotations, and in some cases provided translations from Polish. They are accurate.

Benjy Renton/The Middlebury Campus

Kevin Moss, right, speaks at last Tuesday's panel discussion.

Prof. Callanan goes on to write, "For my part, I find in these quotations the words of a man who has been sharply critical of the methods of activists in the European Union, and who holds the same position on same-sex marriage once held by President Obama, President Clinton, and Secretary Clinton." I am acutely aware of Obama and Clinton's evolving positions on marriage equality. Never, however, did they argue that LGBT people were not discriminated against, but instead rule over others. In fact both supported extension of rights, more like mayor Trzaskowski than Legutko. Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Protection Act into law, something Legutko would vigorously oppose.

My first inkling of Legutko's position came about as a result of a post by Polish feminist and scholar, Agnieszka Graff. She and the team of European scholars with whom I collaborated on Anti-Gender Campaigns in Europe recognized Legutko's rhetoric as typical of the anti-gender discourse of the far right. It is not just Catholic or just conservative, but part of a global attack on women's rights, LGBT rights, and more. I spoke about this at last week's panel on Populism, Homophobia, and Illiberal Democracy, a panel Prof. Callanan did not attend.

As student parodists have demonstrated in their annotated version (on go/beyondthegreen), Callanan's letter itself contains much more false information than the quotations posted by student organizers, which were accurate. Yet student organizers have been harassed, first by some PSCI students who received his letter, and now by right wing trolls outside Middlebury. The students and I appealed to the PSCI department to correct the record early last week. I challenged Prof. Callanan last Thursday to provide evidence for his claims. Again he has failed to engage with the facts. Apparently he cares more about giving Legutko cover and protecting his own false narratives than about the pursuit of truth or about the welfare of our students.

Kevin Moss is a Middlebury professor in the Russian Department.

A Statement from the Faculty Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

These past two weeks, a number of incidents both inside and outside the classroom have made clear that we as a campus have a great deal of work to do in achieving our ideal of inclusivity. We have witnessed the trivialization of acts of historical oppression and genocide, as well as the invitation of another speaker whose bigoted views and public statements are in direct conflict with our values and have caused great harm to our community and the future Middlebury we envision. These incidents are painful violations of the trust that students place in us to teach with integrity and respect. In the case of Jeff Byers, because he served on the Health Professions Committee, he was an institutional gatekeeper for students who major in STEM and who hope to pursue careers in medicine. He created an environment in which students understandably felt that an important gatekeeper trivialized institutionalized anti-Semitism and violent racism. In the case of Legutko's visit to campus, students planning to protest the event –i.e. to exercise their rights to free speech– were prevented from doing so, and are now the target of national media who are obscuring the real intentions and plans for a peaceful, non-disruptive protest. Situations like these threaten the academic and professional futures of many of our students. They work against our efforts to create a climate in which learning, growth, and community-building can take place.

As the primary faculty governance body tasked with addressing institutional and social diversity in the broadest sense, we–the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (CDEI)–view these incidents as symptomatic of what many students of historically marginalized groups have to endure on campus: that is, a faculty in which professors are too often unwilling to examine how their position insulates them from engaging with the kind of bigotry that students have to negotiate continually, both inside and outside the campus community. We refuse to take the easy route by dismissing these incidents as merely outliers. Rather, we advocate embracing a broader historical perspective, and we recognize these examples of current institutional practices and policies that systematically harm students of marginalized communities. Transforming Middlebury into a truly inclusive community means taking a hard, honest look at how our institution protects the status quo and reproduces mechanisms of marginalization by failing to address adequately a climate of alienation within our community.

As a committee, we advocate for concrete steps to strengthen Middlebury's commitment to the ideals, practices, and policies through which we collectively seek diversity, equity, and inclusion. These include:

Greater transparency into the institutional processes and procedures used to both identify and sanction perpetrators of bias. Clarity about institutional decision-making is essential to building the community's trust in how the college handles and responds to reported incidents of bias.

Increased efforts to diversify both the faculty and curricula as critical steps toward decolonizing spaces and interactions on campus.

Mandatory training for all faculty members to raise their awareness of bias in the classroom and to learn effective strategies to address issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in their syllabi and pedagogy.

Creation of a long-term institutional infrastructure by which cultures of knowledge at Middlebury may shift toward self-reflection of disciplines and actions, critique of how these are complicit with existing systems of marginalization, and embedding mechanisms of equity and inclusion into all aspects of college life.

As a platform for faculty voices and concerns, this committee believes it is imperative that the college actively works to rebuild the trust of our students. All faculty should be committed to improving our classroom environments, so that they better reflect Middlebury's stated core values and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. By taking the above steps, we will be demonstrating to our students that their voices actually matter and that their existence at Middlebury is both valued and valid.

The Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

Kemi Fuentes-George, Associate Professor of Political Science

Chong-suk Han, Associate Professor of Sociology

Laurel Jenkins, Assistant Professor of Dance

Shawna Shapiro, Director of Writing and Rhetoric Program, Associate Professor Writing and Linguistics

Daniel Silva, Assistant Professor of Luso-Hispanic Studies

Trinh Tran, Assistant Professor of Sociology

Editor's Note: The above faculty members comprise the entirety of the Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This piece was originally published on the Campus webiste on April 19, 2019.

President Patton, Right the Ship. Please.

By GRIFFIN HALL

Seniors at Middlebury will remember President Laurie Patton's inaugural campaign to promote "rhetorical resilience," whereby she urged students to engage with viewpoints they might find foreign, discomforting, or even outright repulsive. Joining the College in 2015, a year rife with controversy around "safe spaces," Patton was quick to lay down her vision of free speech on campus, arguing, as she said in her inaugural address, that we should "have more and better arguments, with greater respect, stronger resilience, and deeper wisdom."

The Charles Murray incident in March, 2017 offered President Patton a chance to solidify her stance on campus speech. In an op-ed submitted to the Wall Street Journal, Patton urged schools like Middlebury to "embrace freedom of expression and inquiry as an educational value for everyone, regardless of their background or political views." In an even more poignant note, she urged students to "move beyond the false dichotomy between free speech and inclusiveness."

Since then, President Patton has been largely silent on the issue. Perhaps she was discouraged when she saw that students had adopted her term—resilience—and turned it on its head. Soon after her campaign, campus leaflets urged students to be "resilient" in their politics; in other words, to concretize their dogmatic political beliefs in defiance of the administration's rhetoric around openness. Students didn't need to be resilient to ideas; they only had to be resilient to the "oppressions" of the administration.

Patton might have hoped that students would be more accommodating to diverse viewpoints after a steady diet of pro-discourse ideas. Last Thursday, MCAB hosted Rukmini Callimachi, a New York Times journalist with a unique interest in engaging with current and former members of the so-called Islamic State. In her speech, Callimachi's words are striking for their radical embrace of discourse: "I firmly believe in speaking to the enemy, in listening to them, which is different than believing them, in trying to understand them, which is different than giving them a platform... In short, I do this in the interest of truth." Students of all political beliefs rightly applauded Callimachi for her work.

In light of Callimachi's message, the student-run protest of Polish academic and diplomat Ryszard Legutko is nothing but ironic. Students applauded a journalist's effort to publish the personal accounts of some of the most evil people on the planet. Yet when given the option to discourse with (or, if they wished, to ignore) a controversial and highly influential member of the European Parliament, they extended no such courtesy. While students did not seek to disrupt the event, their act of protesting his presence sent a clear message: that they have no desire to listen to the enemy.

For an academic as serious and dedicated to truth as President Patton, it must be excruciating to witness such hypocrisy on her campus. Unfortunately, it appears that Patton feels she cannot change student opinion and deed. Patton seems resigned to let civil protest, rather than civil discourse, be the primary means of dissent at this institution.

I urge President Patton to reconsider such an attitude of resignation. To avoid irreparable reputational harm, the College must quickly recommit itself to the tradition of academic seriousness that defined it for most of the 20th century. We must follow the lead of Princeton and the University of Chicago, both of which passed official statements reaffirming their commitment to free expression. To do so, Patton must make clear to all students that the college quad is different from and independent of the arena of brass-knuckle politics. The goal at college is not to defeat and shame the "wrong views," but to learn. Middlebury students are free and powerful thinkers who have the capacity to make great change through ideas. While students have every right to protest on campus, mob gatherings should not be their first line of action against an idea they find objectionable. Patton must urge students instead to express dissent through rational argument. If students were to follow her lead, they would allow the administration to resume its role as an body promoting academics, rather than one charged with the laughable task of maintaining physical security at a Political Science lecture.

Student support of civil discourse is not as scarce as it may appear. Take, for example, a group of political science students' defiant choice to extend an impromptu invitation to Mr. Legutko, asking him to speak in their "American Presidency" seminar. This is a powerful indicator that, should Patton make a more sustained, bold stand for open and reasoned discourse on campus, many of us are ready to follow her lead. But we do need someone to lead.

Griffin Hall is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2020.5.

Lessons Learned on Controversial Speakers

By THE MIDDLEBURY FACULTY CAUCUS FOR AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

As a learning institution, we believe Middlebury College should always look toward the educational possibilities of events and conversations. Two years after the fracturing of our campus around Charles Murray's visit, what can we say we have learned about hosting divisive and controversial speakers at Middlebury whose statements and actions threaten or demean underrepresented groups, and how did those lessons manifest themselves in this past week's canceled speech by Ryszard Legutko?

The first lesson is that the paramount concern over all others is the physical safety of our community, particularly the students who make Middlebury's campus their home by attending the college. The administrators who oversee public safety decided that given the way the events had been planned, they could not guarantee safety on April 17 and thus canceled the lecture at the last minute. The administration has confirmed that there was no specific threat, but rather, per lessons learned over the past two years, the number of attendees at both the speech and protest required more security staffing than available on short notice to be able to ensure everyone's safety. There should be a thorough review as to why safety could not be guaranteed and how to handle events like these better in the future.

The student protesters demonstrated that they are exceptional learners around these issues. They explicitly framed their protest as a non-disruptive event that would affirm their own identities, but not interfere with Legutko's speech in any way. They were transparent in their planning, and openly communicated with the administration. They followed every aspect of our protest policies to exercise their rights to speech and protest. The fact that student protesters have been wrongly blamed by many in the media, by prominent figures in the so-called "campus free speech" movement, and by members of our own community, is a travesty. We call upon those outside figures and especially Middlebury colleagues to retract that blame and apologize for their mischaracterizations.

What did those faculty colleagues who invited Legutko learn from the past two years? It would seem that they learned much about how to create a partisan firestorm, how to mischaracterize and defame students, and how to avoid being held accountable for their actions. Specifically, we ask for a public accounting as to how the organizers of the Hamilton Forum met or failed in their responsibility to ensure public safety per the post-2017 policies, for their willingness to withhold or misrepresent relevant information about speakers to colleagues, and for their unwillingness to be transparent and communicative about their own actions.

We support open academic inquiry and free speech, including the student protesters' plan to exercise their free speech in a non-disruptive way. In fact, as was amply demonstrated by the uneventful talks throughout the academic year, including by other conservative speakers sponsored by the Hamilton Forum, there is ample space on campus to hear diverse viewpoints. We ask that those who wish to bring speakers carefully consider the effect of such speakers and the format in which they are presented, on the campus climate and our student, faculty, and staff colleagues. While we all should learn to engage productively with hurtful rhetoric, we question whether this can be accomplished by giving divisive speakers an unchallenged platform without proper contextualization or framing. The maintenance of "a culture of reasoned, civil discussion and debate across political and intellectual differences" requires all members of a community to act in good faith; we call upon our colleagues who have failed to do so to demonstrate that they too are open to learning lessons about honesty and humility.

Editor's Note: The members of the Middlebury Faculty Caucus for an Inclusive Community can be found at go/inclusivecommunity. This piece was originally published on the Campus website on April 19, 2019.

Letter: Human Mistakes are Inevitable

By JUDY OLINICK

I urge anyone who has not seen Ellis Glickman's April 18 letter "In Defense of Jeff Byers" to read it carefully. Glickman, a Jewish student and member of Prof. Jeffrey Byers's CHEM 0103 class, agrees that the question about poison gas on a recent exam was offensive, but says, "To call the question harmful is more dangerous than the question itself could ever be." I think this is the essence of the issue. The uproar over news of this now-infamous question is vastly out of proportion to its importance. The instructor certainly used poor judgment in including it, but there is no proof or even serious suggestion of hostile intent on his part. The campus will move on to new issues, but the injury to Prof. Byers may be very long-lasting.

For writing this question, Prof. Byers has been all but branded an anti-Semite and Holocaust trivializer and (it appears) forced to take a leave. He has been rebuked by the president in an all-campus email, something unprecedented in my time at the College. The story has made local public radio and is likely to go farther. As Glickman notes, the Holocaust was real and the gas was used. We must never forget that. But beyond causing understandable short-lived shock and discomfort, did the exam question do enough damage to justify the flood of condemnation? Exactly who was harmed, how and to what extent? We should demand specific, convincing answers before rejecting Prof. Byers's prompt apology as insufficient and virtually expelling him from the community. If we retaliate so furiously for an ill-considered but non-malicious action, what would we do if a faculty member really were shown to be an anti-Semite, Holocaust trivializer, or a racist who has harmed a student in some more serious way?

The College as an institution and, probably, most faculty, staff and students highly value and work to promote diversity, inclusivity, sensitivity and a climate of safety, respect and support. Most of us are probably mindful of what we say and write, striving to recognize and overcome our own prejudices and trying to avoid gratuitously offending others. But the prevailing attitude that any slip-up, however unintentional, any presentation by an objectionable speaker, or any uncomfortable classroom experience threatens some students and indicates that they are unwelcome or not valued constrains the spirit of free inquiry, expression and debate which is vital to a rich academic life. Trying to shield students from any emotional distress--encouraging them to feel entitled to such protection—does not help them prepare for life in the less indulgent "outside world," where they will not find constant personal support and where we hope they will focus outward on the myriad enormous problems facing our planet.

Human mistakes and shortcomings are inevitable. We should attempt to correct them without personal condemnation, without dwelling on them longer than necessary and with recognition of good intentions. Surely it would be better to cultivate our proclaimed values by good example, discussion and friendly persuasion than to enforce lip-service to them through constant suspicion, surveillance and denunciation.

Judy Olinick is the coordinator for the German, Japanese and Russian departments.

STEM in the Liberal Arts: A Defense of CHEM 0103

By NATHAN EVANS

STEM subjects are part of the liberal arts for the same reason as any other subjects: they provide a unique perspective on the world. By condemning the CHEM 0103 test question, we have decided that there is no place for the viewpoint of STEM to influence our understanding of history. I cannot discount the fact that this question offends some students, but we should have a conversation pertaining to the potential usefulness of questions like it.

The abstract math of STEM can have immense real-world consequences. In one of my physics classes, I was asked to calculate the critical mass for the nuclear weapons used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It was just a few letters and numbers, but it led to the death of hundreds of thousands. Science does not exist in a vacuum—applying it is just as important as the science itself. Putting myself in the very same shoes as Einstein, who developed this weapon, forced me to appreciate the gravity of the topic. Einstein understood the implications of his technology and even urged the president not to use it, but a less well-rounded person may not have.

Like humanities or the arts, topics in STEM can serve to further students' understanding of the difficulties of marginalized groups. Unlike Professor Byer's KKK joke which trivialized these difficulties, the Holocaust question potentially creates a deeper appreciation for these difficulties. By going through the same calculations as the Nazis, students can understand the amount of deliberation that was necessary for this atrocity. The psychologist thinks about the herd mentality that led to the Holocaust, and the sociologist may think about cultural influences. The chemist that understands the planning necessary for systematic genocide furthers the psychologist's and sociologist's understandings of the event. Non-STEM classes cannot teach how cold and calculated this method of murder was in the same way. The question shows how the Nazis used the same industrial approach to genocide as they did to war. This is one application of the liberal arts, which believes that humanities and science are better together.

There is a difference between questions we deem insensitive and questions we deem uncomfortable. For example, reading Anne Frank's diary makes the reader uncomfortable, but no one would venture to call it insensitive. Thinking about these atrocities should be uncomfortable because so many people died. You can learn from this discomfort and discomfort alone is not problematic.

So, let's talk about how to bring real world examples into STEM just like you would in an economics or political science class. This is a learning opportunity for all, but we have condemned all questions of its nature. While it is certainly true that Middlebury students shouldn't first encounter these ideas on a chemistry test, they should certainly be prepared for such questions.

Nathan Evans is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2020.

Letter: Making Space for Counter Arguments

By CHARLES TILFORD

Canceling the Ryszard Legutko lecture at the last minute may have been prudent from a security perspective, but it again got us scorched in the national media. As I read The Campus, it wasn't threats from the protesters that were the concern; it was the projected size of the audience, and concern about lack of adequate security staff. If a contingent in ski masks were to appear, could order and safety be maintained?

It seems to me that, given the way Middlebury has become the Whipping Person (gender neutral) for illiberal treatment of conservative/far right/wingnut speakers: Dean Taylor, Provost Cason, and President Patton must have a strong "Plan B" for rapidly escalating the security team, rather than bailing out at the last minute. Also, there should be plenty of time after the speaker's lecture for scheduled protesters/debaters to come to the lectern, make counter-arguments and question the speaker. Middlebury should strive to take exemplary action, and become a beacon for how to do this correctly.

Charles Tilford is a member of the Middlebury College class of 1967.

A Failure of Leadership

By JOEY LYONS

Two years after the Charles Murray incident, Middlebury finds itself again ridiculed in the national press. The Wall Street Journal and other national media outlets are portraying, with good cause, the decision makers at our college as opponents of the free and open exchange of ideas; an exchange that is vital to liberal education.

The Murray debacle, which turned violent and left one faculty member injured, epitomized a widespread and flawed understanding that freedom of speech does not apply to controversial ideas. In that episode, the opponents of free speech were protestors who exercised a "hecklers' veto" to silence ideas with which they disagreed, even using violence to achieve their ends. I set forth the reasons why this form of protest is wrong, and especially wrong in an academic setting, in an earlier article, so I won't reiterate them here.

Last week, however, both the organizers and the protesters of a planned lecture showed a renewed commitment to the open exchange of ideas. The lecturer was Ryszard Legutko, a Polish politician and philosopher. Legutko has made offensive comments about women, racial minorities, and the LGBTQ+ community. Previously, however, Legutko was a member of Solidarity, which courageously helped bring an end to communism in Eastern Europe. Now, he is a representative to the European Parliament and a leader of Poland's Law and Justice Party, one of several far right parties that are rising to power in Eastern Europe and throughout the world.

Students who chose to protest Legutko's lecture repeatedly emphasized that their event would not be disruptive. As Grace Vedock, a protest organizer, noted in The Campus, "It was never our intent to prevent the event from happening; we have reiterated at every step of the process that we did not want to impede his right to speak." The Wall Street Journal quoted another organizer of the protest, Taite Shomo, as stating "It is unequivocally not the intent of this protest and those participating in this protest to prevent Legutko from speaking. Disruptive behavior of this nature will not be tolerated."

Meanwhile, the sponsors of the program, including the College's Alexander Hamilton Forum, were not endorsing what Legutko might say during the lecture or might have said in the past. Instead, the lecture provided interested Middlebury students an opportunity to actively question and debate a prominent representative of the right-wing politics that are increasingly dominant in Eastern Europe and throughout the world. Moreover, there are significant connections between the rise of authoritarianism in Eastern Europe and the American alt-right.

Thus, in order to understand how to deal with a problem in our own domestic politics, it is valuable to engage and refute thinkers like Legutko. We can more effectively combat troubling ideas in the real world if we practice doing so in a relatively controlled setting like a college campus. I consider Legutko's political activity and views offensive, but I should be prepared to deal with people who think like him in the world beyond Middlebury. To fight bigotry, we must understand how bigots think so that we can articulate arguments that discredit them. Some say both that "morally correct arguments do not need defending," and that "our world is plagued by bigotry, hate, and violence." How do we combat these ills if not through a loud, consistent, and powerful defense of our moral principles? Free discourse benefits progressives who use it to show that inclusivity and compassion are superior to intolerance and hate.

Last week, the College had a chance to redeem itself from the Murray debacle and promote both the free and open exchange of ideas and productive protest. Middlebury was set to have a difficult, yet productive, event. Some students were committed to listen to this speaker and possibly challenge his views with hard questions. Others planned to stay outside the talk and vigorously, but peacefully, protest. The administration, however, deprived us of these opportunities.

In the wake of the Murray incident, President Patton claimed that "free speech lies at the heart of our purpose as an institution, and we cannot allow force or disruption to undermine it." Last week's events, however, exposed this rhetoric as empty. Middlebury's leaders lost sight of the College's educational mission. They denied both those who wanted to attend the speech and those who wanted to protest it the opportunity to challenge Mr. Legutko. Mere hours before the talk, the administration canceled the lecture because of vague and unspecified "potential security and safety risks."

College Provost Jeff Cason and Dean of Faculty Andi Lloyd, in an email to the faculty, asserted that "our assessment of the potential safety risks of Wednesday's planned lecture did not reflect concerns about threats from student protesters or students attending the event. Rather, we were concerned about the safety of those participants." However, neither Provost Cason nor Dean Lloyd, or anyone else in the administration, has provided specific evidence regarding what threatened the safety of the "participants." My professors constantly push me to back up my generalizations with evidence. It is disappointing that, in an intellectual institution, our administrators do not adhere to the same standards.

Even if there was evidence of security risks, it is the duty of the administration to create effective plans to ensure the safety of both those who wanted to attend Legutko's lecture and those who wanted to protest his appearance on campus. An institution with Middlebury's resources should be able to perform this basic function. If our school cared about the free exchange of ideas, including controversial ideas, it would undertake this duty, not shirk this responsibility.

The administration's email can also be seen as a subtle attempt to silence classroom discussion about its handling of this event. In the same email to the faculty, Provost Cason and Dean Lloyd admonished Middlebury's professors that "students have reported concerns about potential retaliation by faculty whose position on the event may have differed from their own ... At this time of heightened tensions, we ask all of you to pay particularly close attention to how even well-intentioned comments may be received as retaliatory or punitive."

What is the intended message of this warning if "even well-intentioned comments may be received as retaliatory or punitive" and possibly expose a professor as maintaining an unsupportive and disrespectful "classroom environment." The message may reasonably be received as a warning not to talk about this incident in class. As such, it is a condescension to both the students and faculty members, all of whom are adults and fully capable of engaging in lively debate about this incident. The message could easily chill classroom discussions. Thus, it could be seen as a clumsy attempt to forestall open and free conversations about the administration's (mis)handling of this event.

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal in 2017, President Patton professed her dual commitment to free expression and inclusivity. However, her administration's actions during the past week revealed a leadership more concerned with public relations than either of these principles. I agree with the protesters that they deserve an apology from the administration.

Moreover, the administration should adopt the Chicago Statement so that the College's commitment to free speech runs deeper than President Patton's rhetoric. Thus far, sixty universities and colleges have endorsed the Chicago Statement, which states: "Although the University greatly values civility, and although all members of the University community share in the responsibility for maintaining a climate of mutual respect, concerns about civility and mutual respect can never be used as a justification for closing off discussion of ideas, however offensive or disagreeable those ideas may be to some members of our community." An endorsement of the Chicago Statement would signal Middlebury's recommitment to the intellectual principles that make our education valuable and worthwhile.

Joey Lyons is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2021 and is an opinion editor.

Polish Alumnus: Legutko 'a ruthless politician that contributed to Poland's downfall'

By THOMAS GAWEL

Editor's Note: The below letter has been widely circulated among members of the Middlebury community. It was reprinted with permission on the Campus website on April 17, 2019.

Dear Middlebury Faculty,

Those of you who do not know me – my name is Thomas Gawel, I graduated from Middlebury last May. I majored in International Politics & Economics with Russian and minored in Film & Media. I was raised in rural Poland and had the opportunity to intern at the European Parliament two summers ago. Currently, I'm working towards my JD degree.

When I first saw that Mr. Legutko was invited to speak on campus, my reaction was not outrage. It was, quite honestly, a mere surprise. Perhaps Mr. Legutko is recognized in academia, but, in reality, he is one of the most unremarkable and boring political figures that Poland has ever produced. Why would he be worth flying into VT to give what is likely going to be a very boring self-promotion lecture, I do not know.

Leaving the issues that many students and some faculty rightfully raise aside, I want to point your attention to another one. What I personally find surprising about this event is that some of you fail to recognize that Mr. Legutko is a hypocrite. He represents Law & Justice, a party that works tirelessly to destroy what is left of Polish free media and rule of law. This party has fired virtually all journalists from public media, placed its former MP as the president of the largest Polish TV network, and daily feeds ruthless propaganda to millions of unaware Poles. They have illegally taken over the Constitutional Tribunal and the Supreme Court, for which there are procedures pending against the country at the European Commission. They did so to bypass the Constitution and transform young Polish democracy into a very dangerous hybrid of economic socialism and nationalism/xenophobia.

Yes, they won democratic elections. But they illegally reached for much more power than they had the mandate for, and, one day, they will be held accountable. Hundredths of thousands of Poles took to the streets over the past three years to protest this mockery of a government. This is a single best proof of how problematic Law & Justice is.

If you want to shake hands and take smiley pictures with Mr. Legutko while he promotes his book, go ahead. But, if you do so, at least acknowledge a whole part of his 'legacy' that shows his lack of basic integrity. Mr. Legutko is not an innocent scholar whose work is a prophecy; he is a ruthless politician that contributed to Poland's downfall. If you do not think that you owe this truth to all Middlebury students, you should at least realize that you owe it to me and other Polish students, past or future.

You cannot and should not separate Mr. Legutko's scholarship from his words and actions as a career politician. Your open letter to students, Mr. Callanan, paints a very positive picture of this unfortunate guest. But it is a very incomplete picture. Students should be told that the man that will lecture them about drawbacks of liberal democracy is working tirelessly to destroy one, just across the ocean. I find it outrageous that you would leave such an important part of Mr. Legutko's 'legacy' out of your letter.

My country is going through quite a turbulent time; by giving Mr. Legutko a platform to promote his book, you legitimize the destructive party and government that he is associated with. As a Middlebury alumnus from Poland, I am truly hurt that you showed such level of insensitivity and ignorance.

I am all for Middlebury inviting speakers that hold views different than those of the campus majority. But you could at least seek speakers who are not bigots and hypocrites.

Thomas Gawel is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2018.

A Response to Thomas

By MICHAEL KRAUS

Dear Thomas,

Thank you for your heartfelt and thoughtful letter. It's always good to hear from you!

I recall fondly your assistance in my research, as well as your excellent presentation to our class on Poland, explaining why the Justice and Law party (PiS) won the 2015 election overwhelmingly and what it might mean. Then and subsequently, we had many conversations about the party's illiberal tendencies and worried about where Poland was headed. And as you point out, we were right to worry.

It will therefore surprise you that I regard Professor Ryszard Legutko's visit to Middlebury an excellent pedagogical opportunity for interested students and colleagues, and that even before I knew he was speaking at Middlebury, I added one of his essays to my East European Politics syllabus. Allow me to explain.

The results of the 2015 Polish election came in the wake of a growing popular backlash against the EU and its institutions in countries from Hungary and Greece to Austria and Germany. The proponents of "illiberal democracy," to use Hungary's Viktor Orban's slogan, are winning democratic elections. Since then, the backlash has only grown in intensity and geographical scope such that it now engulfs Britain and Italy. Some of the same illiberal afflictions have manifested themselves in the United States. Much like the Poles, Americans today are deeply divided about their politics. Lest there be any doubt about it, the EU, liberalism and liberal democracy are in crisis.

While surprised and puzzled by these developments, we can ill afford to ignore what the critics of EU and liberalism actually say. Legutko is one of the most articulate among them. He was a dissident and a liberal under communism and editor of Solidarity's underground philosophy journal. He is a distinguished professor of philosophy at Jagiellonian University in Krakow and author of a half dozen scholarly books on Plato, Socrates, liberty and most recently, The Demon in Democracy: Totalitarian Temptations in Free Societies (English ed., 2016). The latter has attracted considerable attention, especially from conservative political theorists, who laud it as first rate.

Some months ago, while updating my fall syllabus, I had already decided to assign Legutko's 2018 article, "Battle for Europe" for my East European Politics, the same class to which you made your excellent presentation. You will find it here: https://www.firstthings.com/article/2018/04/battle-for-europe. He identifies with the thesis that the EU and its elites "have been trying to construct a new European identity, turning European peoples into a post-historical, post-national, post-metaphysical, post-Christian, even post-religious society held together by a universalist ideology of 'Europeism.'" Is he right? Students, informed by other readings, can debate the question.

My motivations in assigning this article were identical to (though entirely independent of) those of Professor Keegan Callanan (author of a recent important book on Montesquieu that defends liberalism) who invited Legutko to talk about his book: if we refuse to contend with the arguments of liberalism's contemporary critics, what gives us the certainty that our own views and convictions are sound and valid? Simply denouncing them and burying our heads in the sand will not make them go away. It goes without saying that assigning an article or hosting a talk does not constitute an endorsement of the speaker's views.

You are right, Thomas, that apart from his scholarly books and articles, Legutko is also engaged in the public sphere as an elected member of the European parliament, representing the PiS. That is why my department also organized a faculty panel (held before your letter's arrival) on "Populism, Homophobia, and Illiberal Democracy." The goal was to provide "context for the Legutko talk and to address some of the key concerns raised about his positions," so that students could be informed and hold him accountable for his and his party's views.

Political Science as a discipline distinguishes the study of politics from political action. If we and our students cannot engage with conservative views, we'll have to shut down the department. Having experienced two decades of totalitarianism first hand, I know from experience that learning to contend with disagreeable arguments is at the heart of both education and of liberal democracy. You are obviously free to disagree.

Best,
Michael Kraus

Michael Kraus is Frederick C. Dirks Professor of Political Science.

Did you know The Campus has a website? There, we publish news and op-eds in real time. Follow along: middleburycampus.com

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A Peek Into the 'Coolest Atoms in Vermont'

By APRIL QIAN
Arts & Academics Editor

On the fifth floor of BiHall is a glass-paneled enclosure where many students of physics can often be found, socializing, snacking and collaborating on problem sets. A sign on the exterior of the glass wall serves as a friendly reminder to onlookers: "Please don't knock on the glass. It scares the physics students."

"I'm not sure [the sign] casts the students in the best light," Professor of Physics Anne Goodsell joked as we walk towards her lab, which is further down the same hallway.

The signage here in the lab is considerably more serious. "Danger," it warns in large text bolded for emphasis. "Visible and/or invisible laser radiation. Avoid eye or skin exposure to direct or scattered radiation."

COURTESY PHOTO

Professor of Physics Anne Goodsell, Amanda Kirkeby '20, David Cohen '20 and Sasha Clerick '19 reconvened at the laser cooling lab after presenting at the Student Spring Symposium.

Professor Goodsell's lab works in the cooling of atoms using laser light to study the interaction between highly excited atoms and electric fields. Put simply, the Goodsell lab has been assembling a laser-cooling system: that includes the lasers themselves, a source of atoms (Rubidium, in this case) and the vacuum chamber, optics and electronics for these experiments.

Multiple lasers are shot and intersect at a point, forming a magneto-optical trap where rubidium atoms will cool to 200 microkelvins and launch upward in discrete clouds. This cooling process slows the atoms' movement in midair. For reference, room temperature is 293 kelvins, or 293,000,000 microkelvin. According to Goodsell, these rubidium atoms are the "coolest atoms in Vermont."

Why cool atoms in Vermont, of all places, where average temperatures go down to 10°F in the winter? (That's 261 kelvins, in case you were wondering). Cooling down atoms slows their movement, which allows the lab to more accurately measure the atoms' trajectories to investigate their interactions with external electric fields and forces.

Goodsell's study of the laser-cooling of atoms began as an undergraduate at Bryn Mawr College and continued into her graduate and post-doctoral research at Harvard.

Goodsell's experience at a liberal arts undergraduate institution allowed her to explore her different academic interests, which was ultimately what had led her to embark on her journey of becoming a physicist.

According to Goodsell, these rubidium atoms are the "coolest atoms in Vermont."

In fact, her first research experience had been in a laser-cooling lab in between her sophomore and junior year in college.

"Being in a lab made me feel like there were things I could build and feel and see," Goodsell said.

"It was the first time when I spent some time reading about science work that other people had done. I read a whole bunch of papers — some of it I didn't understand."

She showed me a box of papers that she had collected that summer. Each paper was folded neatly in half, organized chronologically and tagged by author, title and date.

"I printed out all these papers that talked about laser cooling. There weren't PDFs yet at this point," she said.

"There's my electron," Goodsell pointed affectionately to a small diagram in the margins of one of the papers. "It absorbs some energy and spits out some light." She laughs. "This [box of papers] is, in some ways, just a relic. I feel like I just couldn't discard them. This was a set of papers that was recommended by a faculty member that I worked with and there's stuff that's like the foundations of the field."

"I think that [summer is] when I started to understand things," Goodsell reflected.

"That was also the first time where I was really learning a bit more about the community of science and science people," Goodsell said, commenting on the collaborative nature of research in the sciences.

"For a lot of the topics in science, the work that you do is really connected to the work that other people have done. It's not just connecting with ideas in a textbook," Goodsell said.

When new fields of research first begin to materialize, experimental procedures can often encounter various glitches and challenges so that initially only a few people are able to carry out the relevant experiments successfully.

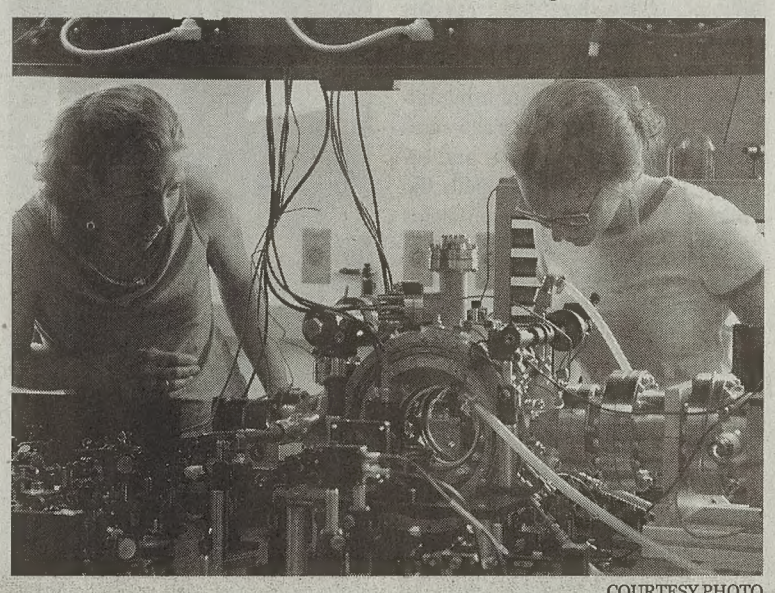
"A lot of work in science starts that way," Goodsell said. "A few people do something successfully, compare and confirm, argue about it, come out with either one general outcome — or sometimes two — and from there these ideas get picked up by a larger group and then at a later time there may be as many people who have done that experiment as people who have run the Boston Marathon in history or have served as a congressperson or have bought hamburgers."

After joining the Middlebury faculty in 2010, Goodsell has taught courses from Newtonian Physics to Experimental Physics to a first year seminar called Light: Metaphors and Models.

Goodsell has taught the Experimental Physics course at least once every year since 2015. "I still very much enjoy doing experimental physics, so getting to teach that class is — sort of — like getting to take it again."

"For me, [teaching and doing research] was a really desirable coexistence," Goodsell said. Teaching and doing research simultaneously at a liberal arts college, however, comes with its own set of challenges.

"For a lot of the topics in science, the work that you do is really connected to the work that other people have done."



COURTESY PHOTO

Goodsell and Clerick adjust the laser cooling apparatus.

Though the process of research and formulating questions works really well during the summers, maintaining that mental connection to research during the school year is harder, Goodsell said. During the school year, Goodsell splits her time between her teaching and research responsibilities, but central to both is her passion for sparking in her students the same joy of experimental physics that she maintains.

"[My undergraduate physics courses] was the experience that I had that helped me decide on doing research, so it feels like one way to offer other people that same kind of opportunity," Goodsell said. "Not like, 'You must do physics because I loved it and you will, too,'" Goodsell said, but if you've never had the opportunity to explore the field, "how would you know?"

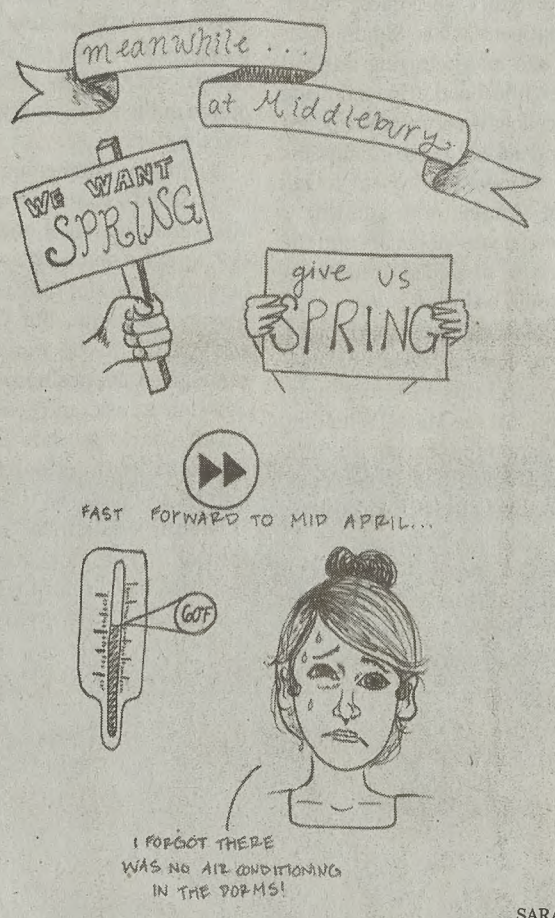
Sasha Clerick '19, Amanda Kirkeby '20 and David Cohen '20 presented on their work in the Goodsell lab in the Spring Symposium two Fridays ago.

Clerick stayed at Middlebury over the summer to do research in the Goodsell lab. "I am modeling atoms as they fly upwards towards a charged wire, visualizing their behavior in different circumstances," she said.

Visualizing such behavior allows various aspects of the atom cloud, such as its velocity and size, to be measured and characterized.

Though the research initially ran into hiccups over operation of the laser apparatus, Clarick described a "feeling of accomplishment" when they were able to successfully trap the cloud of atoms for the first time, after getting the lasers working and properly aligned — but lasers aside, the entire process was "also just really cool" Clerick said.

"That's just kind of mind boggling, isn't it? That you can take lasers, which you'd think would heat things up, and cool it down and physically condense it into this cloud," Kirkeby said, sharing Clerick's and Goodsell's enthusiasm, "...the perplexity and the counter-intuitiveness of it."



SARAH FAGAN

DON'T MISS THIS

2019 Gensler Family Symposium

Professors J Finley and Carly Thomsen consider the definition of intersectionality and how the concept might support — or limit — the creation of antiracist feminisms. Together with Research Assistants Harper Baldwin and Nell Sather, the symposium begins to answer this question by drawing on mixed-methods and multi-sited data set, the first quantitative analysis of "intersectionality."

Friday, 4/26, 9 am - 5:30 p.m., Robert A. Jones House Conference Room

NOCTURNE

Join us for the second annual Nocturne, a Middlebury Arts Festival. When night falls, art takes over. Dance, film, drawing, painting, theatre, music, poetry, sculpture, lights, food and projects that defy categorization come together on Middlebury's campus for an immersive, night-long celebration of student art.

Saturday, 4/27, 7 – 8 p.m., MAC Plaza; 8 p.m. – 2 a. m., various locations

Growing Up in a Muslim Country: Brooklyn, U.S.A.

Much of the political discourse around Muslims in America continues to frame Muslims as the Other. Yet, the lived experiences of Muslims in Brooklyn — like many Muslim communities throughout the United States — tell different stories. This presentation will highlight the ways Muslims have made and transformed Brooklyn as home.

Monday, 4/29, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., McCardell Bicentennial Hall 219

Hurricane Sandy Brings Sisters Together in 'Violet Sisters' Play

By MONIQUE SANTOSO
Online Editor

Before the production began, director Stephanie Miller '20 spoke to the audience crowded inside Hepburn Zoo. Along with the kind reminder to silence our cell phones and pointing us toward the exits, she cautioned us to recognize the play's content of addiction, sexual and physical abuse, death and self-harm. This weekend marked the premiere of "The Violet Sisters," a play written by Gina Femia.

COURTESY PHOTO
Sisters Sam (Kaitlynd Collins '19) and Pam (Toria Isquith '19) reunite after eight years in the senior directing thesis of Stephanie Miller '20.

The old staircase leading to the Zoo was plastered with headlines from October 2012, giving the audience a harrowing picture of what happened during Hurricane Sandy, a Category 3 Hurricane that caused nearly $70 billion in damage and took the lives of 33. Pamela and Samantha, portrayed by Toria Isquith '19 and Kaitlynd Collins '19 respectively, lose their father in the hurricane.

It begins in the torn-up living room of their house, where Pamela comes in rushing to make it in time her father's funeral service. As her older sister Sam learns that she has returned after eight years in California, the two begin to bicker.

While their fight ensues for almost three-quarters of the play, the audience is also given glimpses into how the characters behave when alone. Older sister Samantha commits acts of self-harm, using cigarettes for more than just smoking, while Pamela worries about her marriage to an abusive partner who is upset about her sudden departure while they were on vacation. This is followed by a series of events that, despite rising tension between the two, sheds light on how they each play a part in the other's healing. The play highlights how family, at the end of the day, is crucial in shaping who we are and who we wish to become.

The relatable circumstances that the two sisters struggle with — relationship issues, self-esteem worries and uncertainties about careers — make us ask ourselves how far we are willing to go and what we are willing to give up to pursue our dreams, questions that individuals may struggle with throughout their lives. The play is effective in demonstrating how we often jump to conclusions about those around us, without giving them a chance to tell their entire story.

Miller, who directed the show for her 500-level directing work, echoes this sentiment.

"In terms of my artistic vision, maintaining the authenticity and truth of these women, women in the real world was the most important to me," she said. "These are truthful women in a real world, there is nothing hugely theatrical about the characters or the world they live in."

The performance was not only authentic but also deeply complex.

"I've only been in one Zoo performance before," said Toria Isquith '19, who did this show as her 700-acting work. "You become so much more aware of all the things happening outside of your performance, namely the design, the production, the management. It can be pretty overwhelming. However, working on "The Violet Sisters" and occupying this multidimensional role has been an incredibly powerful learning experience. Other projects seem so much more doable now that I have accomplished this massive, complicated project with so many moving parts."

"The fact that Sam and Pam did not ultimately get the closure the audience wants them to helps the audience recognize those moments in their own life and work to resolve conflict and respect one another, rather than leaving things as they are, broken and unsettled," Miller said.

With its sharp humor and sometimes painfully relatable storyline, "The Violet Sisters" implores the audience to look at their own relationships and their values, thinking about what truly matters in the grand scheme of things.

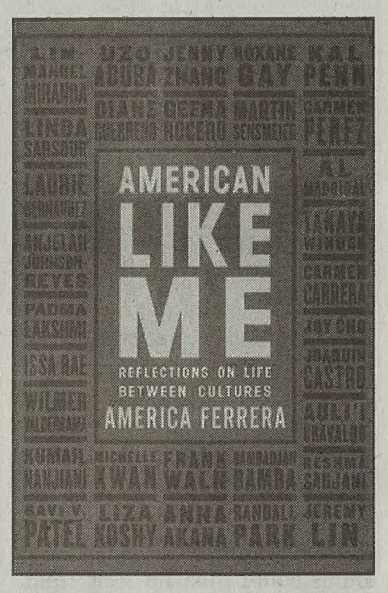
COURTESY PHOTO
In the wake of Hurricane Sandy and the death of their father, estranged sisters Sam and Pam have a contentious reunion.

The Librarian Is In

By KATRINA SPENCER
Senior Columnist

Literatures & Cultures Librarian Katrina Spencer is liaison to the Anderson Freeman Center, the Arabic Department, the Comparative Literature Program, the Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies (GSFS) Program, the Language Schools, the Linguistics Program and the Department of Luso-Hispanic Studies.

"American Like Me: Reflections on Life Between Cultures" America Ferrera, 2018



GALLERY BOOKS

In a collection including over two dozen actors', writers' and activists' stories of being "hyphenated Americans," former television star of the U.S. adaptation of Ugly Betty America Ferrera presents "American Like Me." Every author included scribes a short, autobiographical retelling of the ways their rich, negotiated and transnational identities shaped the path of success they are on now.

Many of the writers lament their inability as children to value the differences that made them stand out whether they pertained to their families' linguistic, religious, culinary, fashion or other differences from the North American mainstream and hegemonic culture. For several, it was not until their adulthood that they realized how the tenacity they witnessed in their parents, the frugality of economically difficult times and the extraordinary work ethic instilled in them launched them forward and sometimes ahead of peers who experienced fewer obstacles.

I didn't read this work cover-to-cover. I spent my time prioritizing the vignettes written by people whose names I recognized:

- Michelle Kwan, a former U.S. Olympic figure skater with parents from Hong Kong and Guangzhou,
- Issa Rae, a Senegalese-American television writer and actor,
- Roxane Gay, a Haitian-American writer and
- Uzo Aduba, a Nigerian-American actor.

I read a few by people who were less familiar to me: Geena Rocero, a Filipina beauty queen, Bambadjan Bamba, an actor from the Ivory Coast, and Jenny Zhang, a Chinese-American writer. Collectively, their stories tell of an ongoing struggle to reconcile the ways they inhabit multiple cultures at once and sometimes how the dualities conflict. Issa Rae, author of "The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl," wonders if she's practicing Ramadan, an annual and Islamic period of fasting, for the right reasons. Along with her family, Jenny Zhang, author of "Sour Heart," struggles in weighing how unlimited, cheap food in a U.S. restaurant chain may be fattening her wallet but doing a disservice to their health. And, initially, Uzo Aduba of "Orange Is the New Black" laments the gap between her two front teeth that in her mother's culture is a sign of honor.

I like the work and I'm glad it exists, particularly at this moment when, at the time of this writing, we as a nation are re-examining what birthright citizenship means. I'd recommend this work to any student whose parents come from another country. I'd recommend it to international students who are considering remaining in the United States beyond their time at Middlebury. And I'd recommend it to anyone who is a fan of the stars who share about their lives within.

As a person in the Middlebury community who has a parent who is an immigrant, I realize many of the ways that the prioritized narratives, stati, origins and accepted ways of being in this country are infrequently my own. This is an encouragement to anyone who finds him/her/themselves among these marginalized groups.

Is there any way that the book fails? Well, I wouldn't say "fail," per se. What I would say is that it does not lend to reading it from cover to cover. This anthology is made for savoring it in morsels. Also, as a 309-page hardback, it's not quite the type of work you see someone reading for leisure on a train. For me, I also think it might not make it to the "coffee table" genre because the narratives are text-heavy and just a little too long for casual paging. I think readers are likely to pull this book off of a shelf looking for a specific someone's narrative than reading it from beginning to end. For more works like this one, see Sandra Cisneros' "The House on Mango Street," Eddie Huang's "Fresh Off the Boat" on go/overdrive/ or Jhumpa Lahiri's "Interpreter of Maladies."

Reel Critic: 'Dogman'

By SOFIA MAKAROVA
Contributing Writer

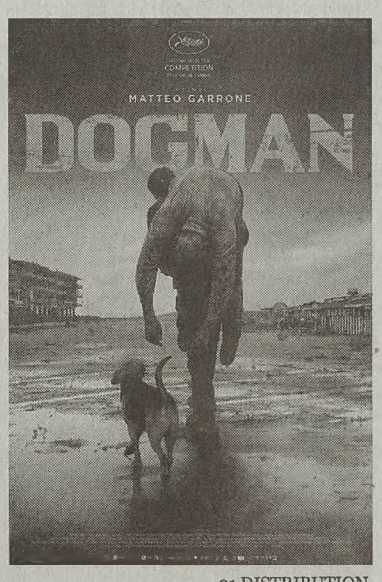
When you think of Italy, what comes to mind? Idyllic sunsets on the Mediterranean? A gondolier rowing past old Venetian architecture? Or maybe just a steaming plate of carbonara. Whatever comes to mind, it probably doesn't include a sinister, run-down town with a crime problem. "Dogman," Matteo Garrone's award-winning film, offers an honest window into a country often perceived as picture-perfect while telling a bone-chilling story of morality, revenge and the human psyche.

The film follows Marcello, a dopey but deeply kindhearted everyman who owns a dog-sitting shop in a small seaside town. His priorities are his daughter, his dogs and the goodwill of his neighborhood — in that order. However, while trying to remain in everyone's good graces, Marcello runs into quite a big problem in the form of Simone — the neighborhood criminal who snorts coke and gets into fights like clockwork.

While most of the neighborhood despises Simone, Marcello is more tolerant, either due to fear or his trusting personality (most likely a combination of the two). When his neighbors propose to hire a hitman to get rid of Simone, Marcello stays quiet. When Simone is shot and seriously wounded, Marcello pulls the bullet out himself. He even helps Simone on his numerous illegal outings and sells him coke on the side. That sounds bad, but stay with me.

There is a warmth that radiates from Marcello.

In fact, there is one scene which perfectly encapsulates his character. As Marcello is coming home from work, Simone pulls up beside him and asks Marcello to drive the van as Simone breaks in and robs a house in the nicer part of town. Marcello obliges, as any good friend would. As they drive back, Simone's accomplice jokes about having thrown a noisy pet Chihuahua into the freezer so as to not get caught. This visibly shakes Marcello. After dropping off his fellow delinquents, Marcello speeds back to the scene of the crime, breaks back into the house and resurrects the frozen Chihuahua (who got the Palm Dog Award at Cannes Film Festival, by the way.)



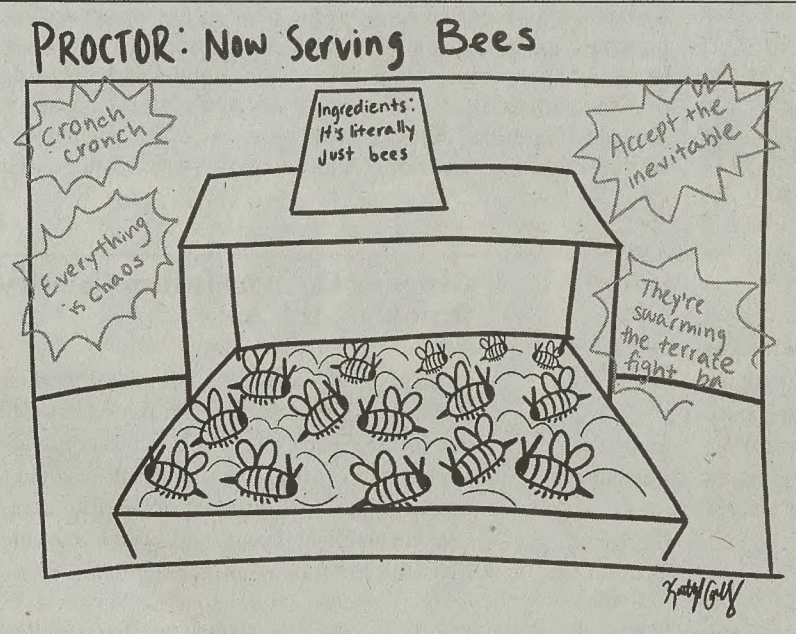
01 DISTRIBUTION

The same kindness extends to Marcello's daughter, whom he takes on scuba-diving vacations with the little money he earns. There's an endearing scene in which Marcello holds his daughter, facing away from the audience, as they coast along the sea. Even with Simone's looming presence, life doesn't seem too bad for Marcello.

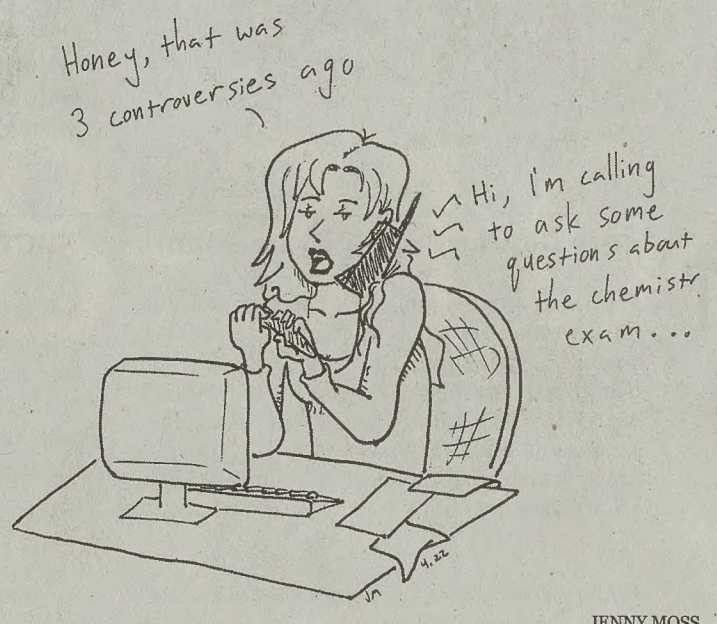
The turning point, and where Marcello's story becomes much darker, happens when Simone bullies Marcello into betraying a friend in the neighborhood. The following day, Marcello is escorted to the police station and asked to give up Simone. Marcello refuses and is sent to jail instead of Simone, even knowing it would mean a year of his life and the comradery he so valued in his community would be lost.

When Marcello returns and tries to speak to Simone about the incident, Simone beats him to a pulp. Once again, we see Marcello holding his daughter on the sea, but this time he's turned toward the audience, and we see his battered face. There's a palpable change in the tone of the film, and the events following cascade into complete chaos. Inevitably, Marcello is driven to madness, and the result is so horrifying it's hard to keep your eyes on the screen. And yet, you're still rooting for Marcello; your heart hurts for him. You feel for him as you feel for a small child when they've accidentally dropped your phone in the toilet. Angry but understanding.

There's an interesting dichotomy to Marcello's character and his life. His actions are all at once good and evil, and the line between the two is barely visible. Not only can you justify and pity him, but you start to ask yourself if you wouldn't do the same given his position. It's a scary question to ask, and it's even more frightening to see how fast the life he built was swept out from under him. It's something reminiscent of "Death of a Salesman" — haunting, conflicting and simultaneously very real. It's "life" in ultra HD, a resolution we often try to avoid when faced with reality.



KAITLYND COLLINS



JENNY MOSS

Baseball Blasts Dartmouth and Plattsburgh State

By ISABELLA MARCUS
Staff Writer

In an undefeated week, the baseball team (17-8, 3-3) defeated Division I Dartmouth College (12-21, 6-9), 15-7, on Tuesday, April 16, for the first time since 1950 and beat SUNY Plattsburgh (10-17, 5-10) 17-1 the following day.

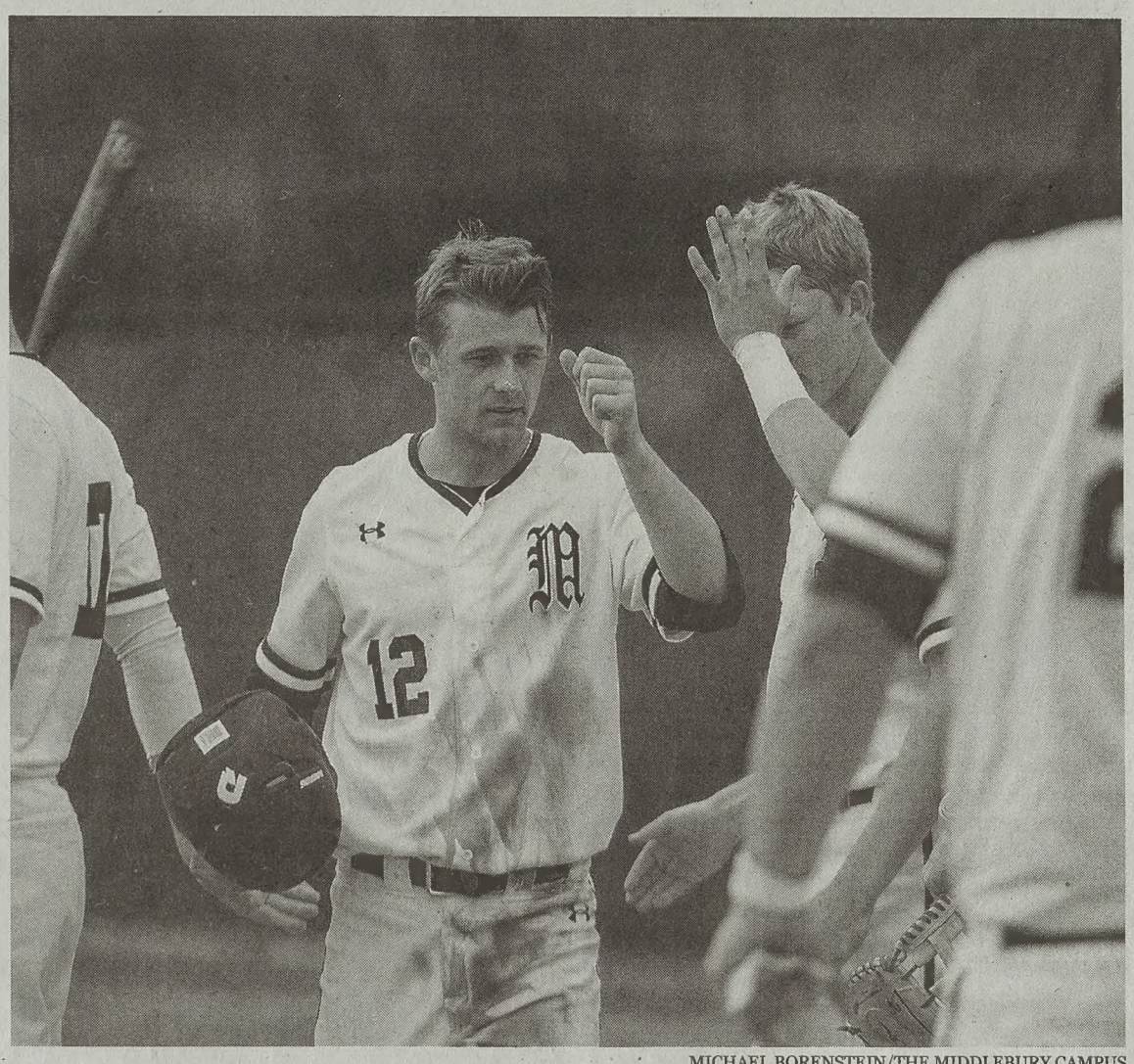
Middlebury had 18 hits by 11 different players and stole eight bases during the game, four coming from first-year right fielder Alec Ritch. The Panthers unleashed a six-run sixth inning to establish a 14-7 lead over the Big Green. Left fielder Justin Han '20 capped the inning with a base-clearing triple.

According to director of baseball operations, Jack Langerman '19, the team was successful by not trying to do too much.

"We are a really good baseball team, 1-34 on the roster, and at times early in the year that added stress because we tried to do too much," Langerman said. "When we relaxed and trusted ourselves, the results spoke for themselves."

Middlebury wasted no time taking the lead, when junior catcher Gray Goolsby hit his first home run of the year for a quick 3-0 lead in the first frame. Dartmouth chipped into Middlebury's lead with a run from senior shortstop Nate Ostmo.

The Panthers responded with two runs on a hit batter, walk, a double steal, wild pitch and infield hit in the third. First-year second baseman Andrew Gough rapped out a triple, and Han added a single to drive in two runs in the top of the fourth. Junior third baseman Hayden Smith hit an RBI double in the fifth to make the lead 8-4.



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Brooks Carroll '20 cools off with teammates after going 2-for-3 with a game-high of five RBIs.

The team's pitching staff held the Dartmouth bats scoreless for the final four frames. Sophomore pitcher Evan Stewart received his first win of the season on 1.2 shutout innings of relief.

Han went 4-for-6 with four RBIs to lead the team in the leadoff spot for the Panthers. Senior center fielder Sam Graf added a pair of hits, three runs, and two RBIs. Dartmouth was held to just six hits and stranded 13 runners.

"A win against a Division I team is huge as it's our first win against them [Dartmouth] since 1950," Langerman said. "At the end of the day, however, we know we are a good team, and we know if we play how we can, we have a chance to win against anyone."

In a 17-1 non-conference win versus Plattsburgh, the Cardinals recorded just five hits to the Panthers' 19.

Middlebury scored in seven different innings in the win with thirteen different Panthers recording hits. Junior shortstop Brooks Carroll went 2-for-3 with a game-high five RBIs for Middlebury and Gough went 3-for-4 with three runs.

First-year pitcher Alex Rosario earned his first career win, retiring his first 13 batters, only giving up two hits over six innings with four strikeouts and no walks. First-year Jackson Atwood got the save on three innings of relief, giving up one run on three hits.

The Panthers return to action at 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 24 at home against Plymouth State (11-17 overall), followed by a NESCAC West matchup versus Wesleyan University beginning at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 26 at home.

"The season is in front of us," Langerman said. "These next games will be what defines our season, especially the six in the NESCAC. If we show up and play how everybody knows we can, there's no reason why NESCACs won't end in a dog pile in Waterville, Maine. That being said, we have a lot of work to do and have to keep at it."

Men's Lacrosse Outscored in Game Against Nationally-Ranked Jumbos

By BOBBY SULLIVAN
Staff Writer

In a matchup against No. 4 nationally-ranked Tufts, the Middlebury men's lacrosse team was looking to earn a huge win and gain momentum going into its final week before playoffs. Unfortunately, the Panthers could not keep up with Tufts' fast scoring offense and lost 23-14. They fell to 7-7 on the year, but remain in sixth place in the NESCAC standings.

The game was very tightly contested throughout the first half. Tufts opened up the scoring, but Middlebury rebounded with a goal by leading scorer Tyler Forbes '22 at the 8:59 mark. The teams kept alternating goals, but Middlebury's only lead in the game came halfway through the first, when A.J. Kucinski '20 rattled off two stifling goals to put the team in the lead 3-2. At the end of the first, Tufts led the Panthers 5-4.

Forbes quickly scored again in the second to tie the game. Again, it was back and forth, with both teams displaying great defense and offense. It is fair to say the game was played at a very fast pace, packed with a ton of action and great scoring plays. Middlebury scored a man-up goal towards the end of the half to put them within one of the Jumbos, after Jack Sheehan '22 ripped a shot from about 15 yards out. At the end of the half, the Panthers were down 10-9.

In the second half, things started to go the right way for the Jumbos. Their offense really picked up and Midd had a tough time controlling the attack. Middlebury was able to hang around for most of the quarter, with Forbes and Alderik van der Heyde '21 keeping the scoring going for the Panthers. However, Tufts scored the five goals to put them in the lead 17-13 going into the final frame.

Rain started to fall as the game progressed, but that did not stop the Jumbos. In the final quarter, Tufts outscored the Panthers 6-1 and closed the game out. On the day, Forbes had five goals to keep up with his fantastic season on offense. Kucinski also netted five of his own, with two assists. In goal, Tyler Bass '21 played most of the minutes at 57:04. He had 13 saves on 36 shots. Although it was a tough game for the Panthers, their offense showed their ability to score and the defense showed some signs of hope.

The Panthers have one game left in conference play, as they will travel to No. 8 Williams on Wednesday. With a win, the Panthers can gain great momentum going into the playoffs. They are excited for what they have in store and know what needs to be done to compete in the incredibly tough NESCAC conference.

Softball Comes Back from Split Weekend as They Look To Face Amherst Mammoths

By MAX PADILLA
Photo Editor

While the softball team did not quite live up to last week's strong performance, the Panthers were able to capture two wins out of five games, splitting the series against Union College and defeating Hamilton in the last game.

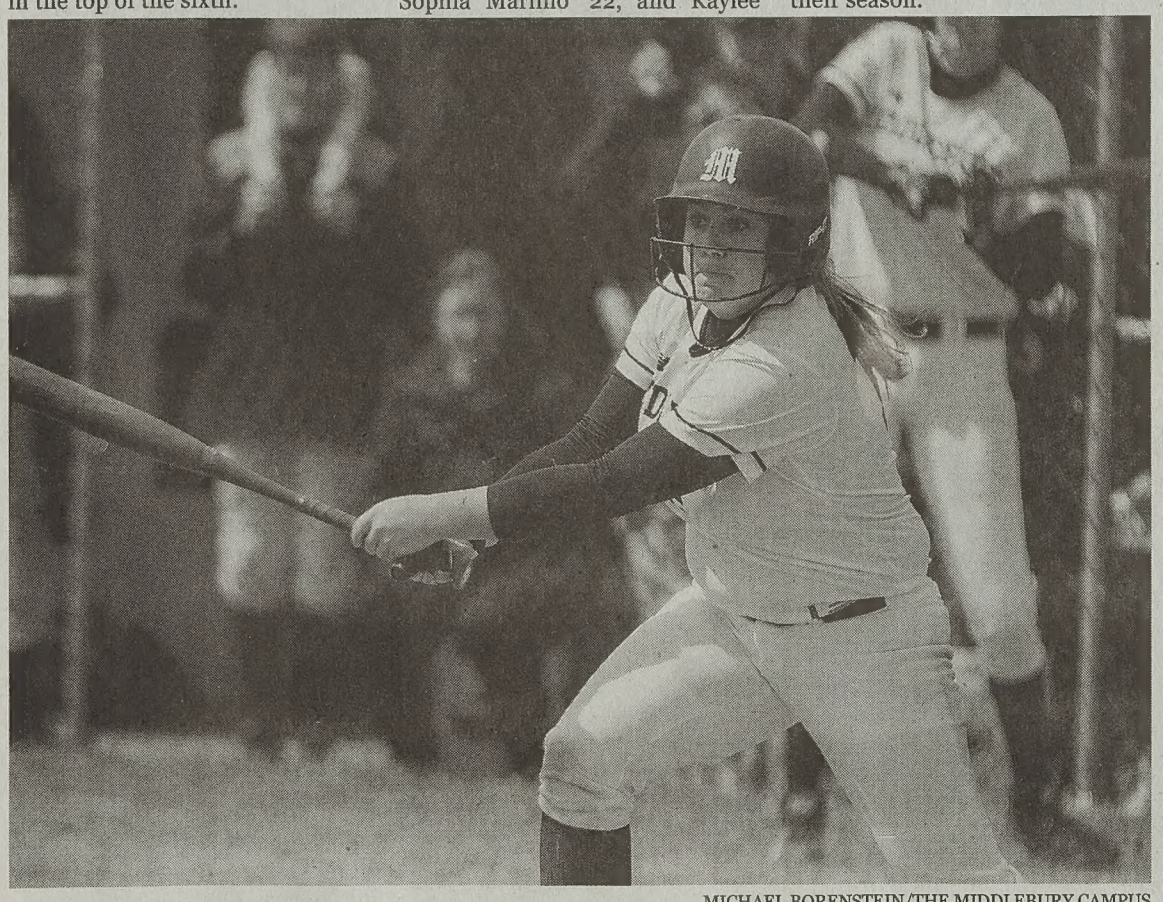
On Wednesday, April 17, the team played a double header against Union. They lost the first game 13-5 in only five innings but came back strong in the second game beating the Dutchmen 19-7 in six innings. In the second game, the players started out strong, making three runs in the first inning. With remarkable defense, Union was unable to score until the fourth inning. The Dutchmen, however, managed to pull ahead, bringing the game to 3-5 in the bottom of the fifth. Hungry for a win, the Panthers scored 16 runs in the top of the sixth.

Despite this amazing feat against Union, the team followed it up with a two-game losing streak against Hamilton: 7-8 on Friday and 6-18 on Saturday. They came back on Saturday night against Hamilton, defeating them by a slim 6-4. Having fallen behind in the bottom of the second 1-3, they pulled ahead 6-3 with exciting runs in the top of the third, with Olivia Bravo '20, Sophie Bolinger '22, Emily Moore '21, Melanie Mandell '20 and Liza Tarr '19 each scoring runs. The Continentals were unable to bridge the gap and lost the third game in the series.

On Monday, April 22, Middlebury matched up against Castleton and fell to the Spartans in both games. Although incredibly close, they were beat out by one run in both games; 5-4 in the first and 11-10 in the second. Despite the loss, the Panthers achieved notable feats. Mandell, Noelle Ruschil '22, Sophia Marlino '22, and Kaylee Gumm '21 all scored home runs. Ruschil and Mandell both added to their collection of completed home runs against Union and Hamilton, respectively, in the past week.

The Panthers have an incredibly young team; ten of their 16 players are underclassmen (six first-years and four sophomores). In addition, the Panthers have played fewer games (and therefore far fewer series) than the teams they compete against. Hamilton, in addition to having a really solid season, has played 33 games (25-8); Castleton has played 29 (13-16), which can be compared to to Middlebury's 26 (12-14).

The Panthers will play their final series against Amherst this weekend, and the match is expected to be close given Middlebury has not beaten the Mammoths since 2016. With the ups and downs, these last three games will be critical for a successful end to their season.



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Emily Moore '21 has earned 32 runs and 35 hits in her career.

Panthers on the Track to Gold for NESCACs

By JORDAN HOWELL
Senior Writer

The Middlebury track and field team competed in the Williams Invitational on Saturday, April 20. Although the meet was non-scoring, the team competed hard as this was the last meet before the NESCAC Championships.

Max Memeger '21 said, "[...]both the men's and women's teams were able to put up great marks across the board in the final week before championship season. Every event group stepped it up this week and there were many huge PR's, season bests and several school records. These performances give both teams great confidence as we look to carry this momentum into next weekends NESCAC championships."

There were several notable performers for the women. Gretchen McGrath '19 was able to capture first place in the 200-meter dash with a time of 25.38. In the 800-meter run, Lucy Lang '19 and Nicole Johnson '22 grabbed first and second place respectively. Lang had a time of 2:19.66 and Johnson had a time of 2:21.58. Rory Kelly '19 came in first and Meg Wilson '20 came in second in the 1500-meter run. Kelly had a time of 4:38.98 and Wilson had a time of 4:45.72. In the 100-meter hurdles, Catherine Walker '20 was able to get first place with a time of 15.39.

The Panthers did well in the 400-meter hurdles as they obtained the first three spots. Julia Munz '22 came in first with a time of 1:05.54, Emily Bulczynski '22 came in second with a time of 1:06.77, and Anna Willig '20 came in third with a time of 1:08.97. Alex Cook '20 placed first place in the long jump event with a jump of 5.55 meters and Simone Ameer '21 got first in the triple jump event with a jump of 10.82 meters. It is also important to mention that the 4X100 team that came in second place was composed of Lizzie Walkes '20, Kate Holly '21, McGrath, and Cook.

Notable performers for the men include Jimmy Martinez '19 and Nick Hendrix '20 who obtained first and second place respectively in the 200-meter dash. Martinez had a time of 21.90 and Hendrix had a time of 21.92. In the 800-meter run, Jon Perlman '19 came in second with a time of 1:54.49, while Will Meyer '20 came in third with a time of 1:55.80. Memeger had a time of 15.63 to win the 110-meter hurdles. In the 400 meter hurdles, Jonathan Fisher '20 got first with a time of 55.97. The Panthers had a time of 42.42 in the 4X100 meter relay. This team was composed of Noah Wagner-Carlberg '19, Hendrix, Arden Coleman '20, and Conor Banky '19.

The jumpers and throwers also achieved remarkable feats. John Natalone '19 came in first place in the pole vault event, Dylan Mortimer '19 was first in the triple jump event, Nathaniel Klein '21 obtained first in the shot put event, Zack Sieb '21 got first in the discus throw, and Minhaj Rahman '19 came in first in the hammer throw.

Next week is the start of championship season as the Panthers take part in the NESCAC championships on Saturday, April 27. The team is on track to perform well if they continue to show the strength and resiliency that they have shown all season.

On the NESCAC Championships, Walker said, "The team is super excited going into NESCACs this week; I've really never seen the group so united and determined so it's going to be a great weekend. Having it on our home track I think also brings another element of energy, so hopefully we get a ton of fans out there to support."

"To prepare for the championships this weekend, the team will be dialing back the training volume significantly and focusing on small technique changes to get the body ready for the big day of competition this Saturday," Memeger said.

"We will also mentally lock ourselves in to get as amped as possible to pop off when the time comes. Finally we will of course continue our team tradition of lots and lots of Kombucha, doing a team flavor sampling event to build hype before NESCACS."

Women's Lacrosse Wins Tight Battle vs. No. 5 Tufts

By LAUREN BOYD
Senior Writer

Fresh off another win against the fifth-ranked team in the nation, the women's lacrosse team has not looked back, extending their record to 13-1. Rookie Jane Earley '22, who earned NESCAC Player of the Week, led the Panthers to a 10-9 victory over fifth-ranked Tufts with four goals. Earley clutched the victory with a game-winning goal in the last three minutes of the contest, bringing the Panther record to 13-1 with just one game left in the regular season.

Momentum shifted throughout the entire game, as both teams never fell below a two-point deficit. Just as the Panthers jumped to a 2-1 start, the Jumbos responded with three of their own. This back-and-forth would continue throughout the game, reflecting the intensity of the contest.

With 4:30 left in the game, the score was knotted 9-9. The Jumbos controlled the following draw — just as they had for the majority of the game — and raced down the field to face goalie Julia Keith '20. Keith saved a Tufts shot and Middlebury successfully cleared the ball to Earley. Earley, with less than three minutes on the clock, took the ball around her defender and rocketed the shot to the back of the net.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
The Panthers rallied a close win against the Jumbos despite the pouring rain. Pictured above: Emma McDonagh '19.

The Panthers' 10-9 victory puts them in a favorable position for the number one seed in the NESCAC tournament. In order to lock in their spot at the top, the Panthers will either have to knock off Williams or bank on Tufts falling to 14th-ranked Bowdoin.

Last week, senior Sara DiCenso said that their final two regular season games would be a challenge. Against Tufts, the Panther squad was able to overcome a difficult battle — one of the toughest they have seen this season. Williams will be the next bout before their postseason run.

This season, the Williams Ephs have a 7-7 record, including a 3-6 record in conference play. Williams and Middlebury both lost to an 8-6 Bates team, but Middlebury has the upper hand with the rest of its impressive play. Middlebury's sole loss came from their first game, which was decided in a heartbreaking OT. This served to be the wake-up call the team needed, as they have been spotless since that minor setback.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Emma White '21 and goalie Julia Keith '20 celebrate after a save against Tufts.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
NESCAC Player of the Week Jane Earley '22 scored four of the ten Middlebury goals against Tufts.

Women's Tennis Victorious Over Maine Rivals

By CECELIA SCHEUER
Senior Writer

The No. 3 Middlebury women's tennis team took a road trip north this past weekend, beating long-time rival No. 6 Bowdoin (8-2), before finishing off Bates 8-1 that same afternoon. With these wins under their belt, the Panthers move to 7-0 in the league and 13-1 overall.

On Saturday morning against Bowdoin, Middlebury came out firing, sweeping all three points during doubles play. The No. 2 junior duo of Katherine Hughes and Skylar Schossberger posted an 8-4 win against Izzy Essi and Tasha Christ, while the No. 3 tandem of Christina Puccinelli '19 and Maddi Stow '20 eased past Sarah Shadowens and Fleming Landau 8-3. In the top flight, Heather Boehm '20 and Ann Martin Skelly '21 triumphed 8-7(2) over Julia Mark and Devon Wolfe, saving three match points along the way. Additional doubles points have gone a long way for the Panthers this season, as they have historically carried most of their strength in singles.

"It's so fun to see us improving at doubles because traditionally we have been a very strong singles team with okay doubles, but now our plays are really taking off and you can see us having fun on the court," Boehm said. "There is no better feeling than beating a top team on their home courts."

The doubles sweep set the Panthers up well for singles play. At the top of the lineup, Boehm won for the 12th-straight time by 6-1, 6-0 scores against Marks. Puccinelli posted a 6-1, 6-2 victory against Wolfe at No. 3. Singles, while Hughes clinched a 6-4,6-0 win over over Christ at the second spot. Schossberger defeated Essi 7-5,6-4 at No. 4, before Stowe secured the team's victory after a marathon of a match. At the No. 5 spot, she triumphed over Sasa Jovanovic (5-7, 6-0, 10-7) to give the Panthers the final 8-1 score.

"Beyond the score, we were really happy with how we competed and the positive energy that we were able to bring to every single court," Puccinelli said. "We played with sportsmanship and class, and we all felt that we represented Middlebury in the best light."

After easing past Bowdoin, the Panthers traveled further north to Bates, where the Bobcats proved to be no match for the Panthers. Once again, Middlebury took all three double points, as Stowe and Norah Dahl '21 posted an 8-4 victory at No. 3 over Isabelle Rovinski and Suzanne Elfman, while Hughes and Schossberger cruised to an 8-3 win against Bella Stone and Anna Rozin in the top flight. In the second spot, Skelly and Catherine Blazye '20 secured an 8-6 victory over Hannah Sweeney and Lauren Hernandez.

In singles action, Stow gave the Panthers a 4-0 lead after she cruised past Elfman 6-0,6-1 at No. 4, before Puccinelli blanked Stone in the second spot to give the team their fifth point and solidify their overall victory. Hughes triumphed over Sweeney 4-6,6-2,10-3 at the top of the lineup, before Ruhi Kamdar '21 rounded out the scoring with a 6-4, 5-7, 1-4 win at the No. 6 spot.

The Panthers will return to the courts this Saturday when they host No.7 Amherst at 1:00 p.m.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Ann Martin Skelly '21 prepares to receive a serve.

Men's Tennis' New Energy Proves Successful

HATTIE LEFAVOUR/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Senior captain Lubomir Cuba reaches a low shot.

By JACK KAGAN
Senior Writer

The men's tennis team returned from a trip to Maine with solid wins against NESCAC foes Bates and No. 4 Bowdoin. The win came at a critical moment, after the Panthers dropped to No. 8 in the national rankings.

Middlebury's first contest against the Bobcats was relatively smooth as the Panthers' deep ladder swept the doubles and prevailed 7-2 overall. Saturday would prove to be the premier challenge of the weekend for the Panthers, with a rematch set against a Bowdoin team that they narrowly beat 5-3 one year ago to secure the program's third NCAA National Championship.

Four of the starters from last year's championship game played on Saturday, reprising the rivalry against the formerly 12-2 Polar Bears. "Both teams were going into the match ready for a war, and that is exactly what happened," said sophomore standout Adam Guo.

This weekend, the Panthers staff decided to try out some new pairings for the doubles competition after some adverse results in recent weeks. All three of the teams were never before seen pairings, and this resulted in a 5-1 overall record on the weekend. Head Coach Bob Hansen said "we were extremely pleased with our new doubles teams and proud of the effort to establish connection and make adjustments to individual skills and style." The change was welcome as the Panthers improved upon recent results and went 2-1 to start the day.

Having just a small head start, the Panthers later found themselves knotted at 3-3 with the Polar Bears. Guo stepped up with a critical victory at No.4. After seeing minimal time in his first-year campaign last year, Guo currently leads the team in singles wins this spring.

What has made the difference for Guo? Dedication in the offseason, he says. "I went back to the academy I trained at when I was a junior[...]and practiced every weekday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.," said Guo. Despite his improved presence on court, the feeling of being a key starter hasn't lost its appeal just yet. "I was both nervous and excited to play [No. 4 singles] against such a top team...but it shows that [the coaches] really believe in my success and my hard work is paying off," he added.

Senior Noah Farrell followed suit after Guo's victory with a three-set thriller of his own to clinch the match for the Panthers. Middlebury would go on to win 5-4 and make their case to move back up in the rankings.

Next up for Middlebury is an away match against No. 7 Amherst as the Panthers try to spoil the Mammoths' senior day. Saturday could be the time for another big change in the national rankings, and as Coach Hansen pointed out after mixing up the ladder, "sometimes a change can bring new energy." The Panthers will need all the energy they can get this weekend to take down the upstart Mammoths en route to a favorable seeding for the NESCAC tournament.